

THE
ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE
COOCH BEHAR STATE FOR THE YEAR 1897-98

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To

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA

BHUP BAHADUR OF

COOCH BEHAR.

Dated, Cooch Behar, the 22nd August 1898.

YOUR HIGHNESS,

WE HAVE the honor to submit the Annual Administration Report of the State for the year 1897-98. With this are forwarded the reports received from the Superintendent of the State, the Dewan, the Civil and Sessions Judge, the Registrar of Deeds and the Accountant-General of the State. These reports shew the necessary details of the working of each department.

2. *Leave to Members.*—Babu Jadub Chander Chuckerbutty, Civil and Sessions Judge of the State, Registrar of Deeds and Judicial Member, State Council, was absent on privilege leave from the 21st of April to the 1st of June 1897. The Assistant Civil Judge was placed in charge of the offices of the Civil Judge and Registrar of Deeds, and Babu Priya Nath Dutt, M.A. B.L., Fouzdary Abilkar of the State, was authorized to sit in Council to form a quorum during his absence on leave.

3. *Constitution of Council.*—There was no change in the constitution of the Council during the year under report. The Government of Bengal sanctioned a further extension of service of one year to Babu Jadub Chander Chuckerbutty, Civil and Sessions Judge and Judicial Member, State Council, from the 10th of October 1897, on the recommendation of Your Highness in Council.

4. *Your Highness' arrival and departure.*—Your Highness left the State for Dargelling on the 23rd of June 1897, and arrived in the State on the 26th of January 1898, after Your return from the Tirah Campaign. Both these days were observed as holidays in all the courts and offices of the State, and on the latter occasion there were general rejoicings throughout the State, and the Cooch Behar Town Committee and the Jotedars, Mahajans, Headars, Vakils and other residents of Cooch Behar presented You with addresses of welcome.

5. *Your Highness' absence from India during the Tirah Campaign.*—The Frontier tribes having taken up arms against the British Government, an expedition on a large scale was sent to quiet the disturbance. Your Highness offered your services, which were most graciously accepted by Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India. Your Highness joined the campaign in September 1897, on the staff of the late General Yeatman-Biggs. The Government of India recognized the services rendered

by Your Highness in the campaign, and Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India was pleased to create You a Companion of the Bath. The details of Your Highness' services are given in the report of the Dewan of the State so they are not repeated here at length. The following memorandum of administration dated the 28th of August 1897, providing for the administration of the State during Your absence on the Frontier, was recorded by Your Highness.

MEMORANDUM.

The Administration of the State will be conducted by the State Council, during my absence on active service in the Frontier, all matters of grave importance, as specified below, being referred to me for final decision.

2. In the absence of any one of the permanent Members of the Council, the Foundary Ahilkar is authorised to sit both on the Executive and Judicial sides of the Council to form a quorum.

3. A letter will be issued from my office authorising the power of attorney executed on the 29th June 1896, on behalf of Mr. D. R. Lyall, C.S.I., Superintendent of the State, Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur, Dewan, and Babu Jadub Chander Chuckerbutty, Civil and Sessions Judge, Members of the State Council, to hold good during my absence as above.

4. All matters relating to the conferring of privileges of any kind or granting lands to any body, and other matters such as appointment, dismissal, increase of salary, entertainment of new establishment, the constitution of courts, pension, gratuity or any special allowance, which are sanctioned by me, shall continue to be submitted to me for final orders as now, through my office, continuity of which will be maintained (important papers being forwarded thereto for record). The Audit Department also, which forms a part of my office, will continue to discharge its duties as now. If, however, the Accountant-General thinks it necessary, reference may be made by him on any subject to the Council.

5. The Council are empowered to sanction all expenditure within the limit of the Budget for the year passed by me. They are also authorised to make officiating arrangements, if necessary, in anticipation of my sanction. All Railway matters will be disposed of by the Council, and the Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway System will be requested to communicate with them direct. All matters disposed of by the Council according to this authority will be communicated to my office for record.

6. Nothing in this memorandum is to be understood to alter, or interfere in any way with the powers conferred on the Council as a body, or on the individual members thereof, under the memorandum of Administration, *vide* Bengal Government No. 1336 P. D. of 29th October 1883, and sanctioned by me in Council on the 18th November 1883, as amended by the revised scheme of Administration adopted with effect from the 4th December 1891 and approved by Government, *vide* Bengal Government No. 329 P. D., dated the 25th January 1892, and subsequent modifications.

6. *Visit of the Maharaj-Kumar.*—The eldest Maharaj-Kumar Raj Rajendra Narayan, who is studying at Eton, paid a visit to the State, arriving on the 1st of February 1898. Your Highness was pleased to order an official reception to be accorded him. The Maharaj-Kumar was received at the Gitaldaha Ghat by the Superintendent of Police and the Sub-divisional Officer of Dinahata; and at Torsa he was received by the Dewan of the State, the Private Secretary to Your Highness, the Foundary Ahilkar, the Civil Surgeon, the Principal Victoria College, the Personal Assistant to Your Highness, the Superintendent of Works, the Duar-Mukhtear and an Aide-de-Camp. A guard of honor was drawn up on the Torsa Station platform who presented arms, and a salute of nine guns was fired.

As Heir-Apparent to the Throne, Your Highness was pleased to allow the Maharaj-Kumar the following insignia and distinctions:—

A salute of nine guns.
 One horse with Danka.
 One horse suitably caparisoned.
 One elephant with jhul.
 Two Sowars.
 Two flag bearers.
 One gold Umbrella bearer.
 One gold Aranidhara.
 One Mayurpankhadhara.
 One Murchaldhara.
 Two Khashbardars.
 Two Bhujlabardars.
 Two gold Bullambardars.
 Two Silver Bullambardars.
 Two gold Ashashotabardars.
 Two Silver Ashashotabardars.
 One silver Jharidhara.
 One silver Soraidhara.
 Two gold Chamarbardars.
 Sixteen Sepoys under a Havildar.
 Eight Constables under a Head-Constable.

After a short stay, and after killing his first tiger, the eldest Maharaj-Kumar and Maharaj-Kumar Jitendra Narayan left for England.

7. *State ceremony.*—The Poonneah ceremony for the year 1304 B.S. was celebrated on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of May 1897, corresponding with the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of Bysack 1304 B.S. The offices of the Revenue Department were closed for 4 days, and all other Courts and Offices for 3 days, commencing from the 3rd of May 1897.

8. *Earth-quake of the 12th of June 1897.*—The State was visited by a terrible earth-quake on the 12th of June 1897. There were three distinct shocks, one succeeding the other, coming from the north-east, the whole lasting for a little over three minutes. The first tremor began at about 5 p.m., and, gaining in intensity, in the last stage laid everything in ruins. The earth was fissured, sand and water spouting out from the fissures. The earth sank in places, while beds of rivers &c., were upheaved. Your Highness' Palace, other State buildings, roads, bridges &c., suffered very serious damage. The damage in the State alone has been estimated to be about Rs. 17,93,847. Your Highness also suffered loss in Your zemindaries, Darjeeling and Calcutta properties. The loss in the zemindaries in buildings &c., was calculated to be about Rs. 18,000; that in the Calcutta property Rs. 7,000; while it was estimated that about 2½ lakhs of rupees will be required to rebuild the damaged and fallen houses in Darjeeling. There were also some petty losses in cattle, crops and cutcha houses. In comparison with these great losses of property the small loss of life (8 only having been killed) is a noteworthy fact. Repairs were taken in hand immediately and are steadily progressing. Further details are not given in this place as the Council have directed the report of the Superintendent of the State to be printed as an appendix to this report in order that a permanent record of the disaster may be preserved. The Council however desire to record their appreciation of the value of the advice given by Mr. H. Cloëté, Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, who was allowed by the Government of Bengal to visit the State, and give advice

during this troublous period. Later on the same Government allowed Mr. Banks-Gwyther to visit the State and give his valuable advice regarding the reconstruction of the Palace generally, and particularly regarding the Dome.

9. *Famine*.—The rain-fall in 1895-96 was deficient, and the outturn of paddy fell below the average. The rain-fall in 1896-97 was still more deficient. The *Bidri* rice yielded a nine anna crop which was soon exhausted, and people had to depend on imported rice, the price of which rose abnormally high. Jute yielded a fourteen anna crop; and its price being good helped the people to tide over the difficulty for some time. The outturn of *Haimanti* rice was poor, and ranged from 5 to 6 annas. This yield did not provide food for long, and the price of rice continued very high. Wheat, barley, kaon, cheena, mustard and potato were extensively cultivated. These yielded good harvests, and provided the people for some time with food, or with the means for obtaining it. Tobacco yielded a fair outturn but the market was dull, and people were obliged to dispose of their stocks at a low price. By the middle of April 1897, the resources of the people were drained, and as the price of rice continued abnormally high, considerable distress prevailed.

The Fouzdary Ahilkar of the State, after the necessary enquiries, submitted a report urging the necessity for relief. Your Highness in Council was pleased to consider the report favorably, sanctioned the scheme of charitable relief, and granted Rs. 15,000 for carrying it out. Relief centers were opened and Committees formed in each of the Sub-divisions of the State, and doles of rice of one pawa and a half with a pice for salt &c. per head per diem were given twice a week. These operations commenced from the 16th of May 1897. Experimental relief works were also opened for the succour of able-bodied persons in distress, but few agreed to work. The total number of persons so employed was 413, and their wages amounted to Rs. 195-14. The whole cost of these works including all other charges came to Rs. 210, and was borne by the Public Works Department. Public subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 6,829-7-9 were also raised. The sum of money at disposal was thus Rs. 21,829-7-0. The disastrous earth-quake of the 12th of June 1897, rendered the roads all over the State almost impassable, and rice could not be transported and consequently many of the centres were closed. The *bidri* crop also just then began to come in, on the appearance of which in the market, operations were stopped, having continued at several centres for 43 days. The whole expenditure amounted to Rs. 17,099-6, the daily average of persons relieved being 5,930-32. Of the total expenditure Rs. 14,997-1-3 were expended from the State grant, and the rest from the public subscription. The balance in hand was made over to the the Dewan who was authorized to utilize it in sinking wells in the interior of the State.

10. *Division of the report*.—The report as usual is divided into the following heads :—

I.—LEGISLATIVE.

II.—JUDICIAL.

III.—EXECUTIVE.

I.—LEGISLATIVE.

11. *Meetings of Council*.—There were 55 meetings on the Legislative and Executive sides of the State Council against 44 of the previous year. Your Highness presided at 17 of these meetings.

12. *Acts passed during the year.*—The following Acts came into force during the year :—

Act V of 1897.—The Revenue Sale Act.

Act VI of 1897.—An Act for making better provision for the care of the persons and property of minors.

Act I of 1898.—The Kist Act.

Act II of 1898.—An Act to amend the Revenue Sale Act.

Act III of 1898.—The Police Act.

The following Bills were introduced in the State Council during the year :—

Bill No. I.—A bill to amend the Cooch Behar Revenue Sale Act V of 1897.

Bill No. II.—A bill to amend the Voluntary Sales of Under-tenures Act II of 1894.

Bill No. III.—A bill to amend the Cooch Behar Village Chowkidari Act III of 1893.

The Civil Procedure Code is still under consideration. It has been published and the Council are now finally revising its provisions.

Amendments of the Stamp Law, the Rent Law and the Town Committee Act are also still under consideration.

II.—JUDICIAL.

13. *Sittings of Council on the Judicial side.*—There were 32 sittings on the Judicial side of the Council against 39 of the previous year.

14. *Abstract of cases heard before Council.*— There was one regular appeal pending from the previous year. One was instituted during the year, and one case remained pending.

There were two criminal appeals pending from the previous year. Seven were instituted during the year. Eight were disposed of.

There were 10 special appeals pending from the previous year, and 18 were instituted during the year, of which 26 were disposed of.

Six motions were pending from the previous year, and 24 were instituted during the year, of which 28 were disposed of.

There was no miscellaneous appeal pending from the previous year. Eight were instituted during the year, of which six were disposed of.

Six references from the Small Cause Courts were made during the year, of which 4 were disposed of.

Detailed statements showing the institution and disposal of cases are appended. The state of the file is satisfactory, the total number of pending cases being 10 as against 19 of the previous year.

15. *Khatas transactions.*—Your Highness was pleased to confirm the orders passed by the Council regarding the illegality of the entry of transactions of the nature of bonds in khatas, with retrospective effect from the 22nd of August 1895.

16. *Trial of Rajgans in criminal cases.*—Your Highness was pleased to order that in criminal cases no distinction should in future be made between Rajgans and other persons, and that, in consideration of the legal qualifications now required from the officers exercising criminal powers in the State, Rajgans should be tried by the Courts competent to try the offences they are accused of, appeals in such cases being also governed by the law applicable to other criminal appeals.

17. *Introduction of certain rules in the Registration Department of the State.*—With a view to discourage illegal stipulations by tenants in favor of their superior holders, Your Highness in Council was pleased to rule that registering officers shall report to the Dewan of the State all documents, containing illegal stipulations by under-tenants in favor of the land-lords, presented before them for registration.

Your Highness in Council was also pleased to rule that whenever the Registers of a Registration Office are called for by any Court, they shall be sent with an officer of the Registration Office concerned, and that the usual search fees according to the table of fees under the Indian Registration Act III of 1877, and the pay of the officer for the period he will be absent from his duties, together with his travelling and other allowances, will be levied from the party at whose instance the books are sent. Out of the amounts thus levied, the travelling and other allowances shall be paid to the officer producing the books, the salary and search fees being credited to the State.

18. *Copying fees in Civil Courts.*—Your Highness in Council was pleased to rule that the rate of fees now taken for authenticated copies, annas four, should be retained, but that in future, with effect from the 1st of April 1898, half that sum should, as at present, be paid to the copyists, the other half being credited to the State in order to provide funds for the payment of comparing clerks; that the rate of fees for unauthenticated copies should be raised to annas 3 per folio, two-thirds of that sum being paid to the copyists, and the remainder credited to the State for payment of comparing clerks when required.

Your Highness was also pleased to appoint comparing clerks on Rs. 20 a month for the Sadler, Diakata and Mathabhanga Sub-divisions, and to order that the comparing work at Mekligunj and Toofangunj for the present be done by the paid staff without additional remuneration, and that from the 1st of April 1898, no fees for comparing will be drawn by the regular staff of the State.

III.—EXECUTIVE.

19. *Division of landings.*—The report dealing with subjects under this head is divided into the following sub-heads—(a) General, (b) Financial, (c) Quasi-Political, (d) Public Works, (e) Miscellaneous.

(a)—GENERAL.

20. *Resettlement.*—The field operations connected with the resettlement of Bulat Bishgan have been completed. The resettlement of nine Talooks in Gird Chowak has been taken up, as previously reported. Your Highness was pleased to order that the new settlement should take effect from 1896 B. S. and extend over 21 years. Rs. 14,000 were sanctioned for settlement operations during the year under report, and a further sum of Rs. 11,408 has been provided for settlement operations in 1898-99.

On the recommendation of the Dewan Your Highness was pleased to sanction a scheme for the settlement of patches of khas lands not dealt with during the resettlement operations. The estimated jumma of these assessable lands, excluding lands situated in pergunahs Mekligunj and Mathabhanga is Rs. 1,700 a year. The estimated cost of the settlement will be about Rs. 1,500, which Your Highness was pleased to order to be met from the savings in the grant for settlement operations in the Budget for the year under report.

21. *Reduction in Jumma.*—Your Highness was pleased to sanction the reduction of jumma of Rs. 8,076-12-6 on account of cancellation of leases for bad jotes, diluvion, resumption of lands by the State and other causes, against Rs. 8,029-11-2 in the previous year.

22. *Remission of Revenue.*—Your Highness was pleased to sanction the remission of one lakh of rupees on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the accession of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India. Of this sum Rs. 58,971-0-10 were remitted in the State, and Rs. 40,944-9-7 in the Chacklajat Estates as per details given below:—

	1896-97.			1897-98.			Total.		
	Ra.	A.	P.	Ra.	A.	P.	Ra.	A.	P.
Cooch Behar State ...	18,055	6	5	40,915	10	5	58,971	0	10
Chacklajat Estates ...	20,273	10	3	20,670	15	4	40,944	9	7

Total ... 99,915 10 5

In addition to the above Your Highness was also pleased to sanction a further remission of revenue amounting to Rs. 14,666-7-2.

23. *Education.*—On the report of the Superintendent of the State Your Highness was pleased to sanction the abolition of the Model school at Ghosanimari and the classification of the remaining 11 moffusil schools into 3 grades; also certain small reductions in grants-in-aid, the whole savings amounting to Rs. 480, which sum was transferred to primary education.

24. *Medical.—Post-mortem Examinations.*—On a representation made by the Superintendent of the State, Your Highness in Council was pleased to order that dead bodies from the other side of the Teesta should be sent as a special case to the Native Doctor at Haldibari, all others being sent to the Civil Surgeon for post-mortem examination.

Sale of Quinine.—As previously reported the Superintendent of the State has arranged for the sale of pice packets of quinine by certain schoolmasters in the State.

Pension to Dr. D. D. Gupta and arrangements for his successor.—Dr. D. D. Gupta retired on pension on account of ill health with effect from the 18th of February 1898. The services of Surgeon-Captain Cedric Barkley Prall of the 36th Sikhs were transferred by the Government of India to the State, for a term of three years with the option of extension. Surgeon-Captain Prall was then employed on active service in the recent frontier war whence he was invalided home. Pending his return to duty the services of Kumar Bhabendra Narayan, Civil Medical Officer of Durbhanga, have been lent by the Government of Bengal. Kumar Bhabendra Narayan joined on the 5th of March 1898.

25. *Reduction and changes in the Cooch Behar Police.*—On the report of the Superintendent of the State, submitted in accordance with the resolution of Council dated the 2nd of May 1895, in which it was proposed that the number of out-posts should be reduced, and that all cases should be investigated by officers not under the rank of Sub-Inspector, Your Highness in Council was pleased to make the following reductions and alterations, and to introduce the following reforms in the Cooch Behar Police:—

The out-posts of Khohta, Gitaldaha, Bhoishkhuchi, Moranga and Shitai were abolished.

Of the present staff of 8 Inspectors, one will be reduced when the next vacancy occurs and the grades will be, one first grade Inspector on Rs. 150, and one second grade Inspector on Rs. 100.

The number of Sub-Inspectors was raised from 10 to 11, distributed as follows:—

1	First	grade ...	... on Rs.	80
2	Second	" ...	... "	70 each
3	Third	" ...	... "	60 "
3	Fourth	" ...	... "	50 "
2	Fifth	" ...	... "	80 "

The Head-constables were reduced from 31 to 24 and were divided into two classes, literate and illiterate, the former for court and station duties, and the latter for escort and guard duties.

The grades were distributed as follows:—

			Literate.	Illiterate.
1st grade on	...	Rs. 25	5	...
2nd " "	...	" 20	3	...
3rd " "	...	" 15	4	5
4th " "	...	" 10	2	5

The number of Constables was reduced from 284 to 262 and the grades distributed as follows:—

1st grade	...	on Rs.	9	31
2nd "	...	"	8	79
3rd "	...	"	7	152

When the scheme is completely introduced the net savings will be Rs. 3,444 a year.

The above changes were ordered to be introduced gradually as vacancies occurred, except the abolition of the out-posts, which was effected from the 1st of March 1898, and the increase of one Sub-Inspector who was appointed from the 1st of April 1898. It was also ordered that all investigations from that date must be done by Sub-Inspectors, unless special reasons existed for entrusting any case to a Head-constable.

26. *Adoption of the system of finger prints in supersession of anthropometry in the identification of criminals.*—In supersession of anthropometry and in accordance with the orders passed in Bengal Your Highness in Council was pleased to approve of the adoption of the system of identification of criminals and suspects in the State by their finger prints.

27. *Increase of pay to the Palace guard.*—Your Highness in Council was pleased to sanction the following grades and pay for the Palace guard

20 per cent 1st grade @ Rs. 10.

30 per cent 2nd grade @ Rs. 9.

Ditto 3rd grade @ Rs. 8.

20 per cent 4th grade @ Rs. 7.

The total cost when the grades are full will be Rs. 15,012 a year, or an increase of Rs. 2,064 a year. The increase has been introduced from the 1st of April 1898. The old rates of pay were Rs. 7 and Rs. 8, but it was found impossible to get good men on these rates.

28. *Court of Wards.*—The estates of minor Narendra Nath Chuckerbutty of Takagach, and of Majiranissa of Nalungibari were taken charge of by the Court of Wards during the year, and the charge of the Talookdar's estate has been retained in the name of minor Nalini Kanti Talookdar, who was adopted as son by Chandra Mui Debva in the course of the year. No estate was released during the year under report.

29. *Embezzlement of money belonging to estates under the Court of Wards.*—Sajwal Doorga Charan Chuckerbutty, who embezzled certain sums at Mathabanga, as reported previously, has not as yet been arrested. The Dewan of the State submitted a detailed statement shewing the amount of money embezzled at Dinhat during the incumbency of certain Naib Ahilkars of the State, amounting to Rs. 9,737-8-3. Explanations have been called from the Naib Ahilkars concerned, and they have been called on to shew cause why the sums embezzled during their respective terms of office should not be realized from them. The matter has been reported, and is still under Your Highness' consideration.

III.—(b) FINANCIAL.

30. *Budget estimate of 1897-98.*—The report of the Accountant-General shows the revenue and expenditure of the year. As stated in paragraph 53 of last year's report the budget of 1897-98 was framed showing a deficit of Rs. 84,398. This sum was to be met from the cash balance, unless the collections of the year improved to such an extent as to meet the expenditure. The cash balance at the end of 1896-97 amounted to Rs. 9,42,319 of which Rs. 5,84,510 were available for State purposes, the balance being made up of funds belonging to the Government of Bengal, deposits and other appropriated funds.

The income of the year was estimated at Rs. 20,80,092 and the expenditure at Rs. 21,64,490. The details of the estimated expenditure are as follow, and for convenience of comparison the figures of the budget for 1898-99 are also produced here:—

	1897-98	1898-99	
	Rs.	Rs.	
Your Highness' personal expenditure ...	3,00,000	3,00,000	
Payment of out-standing bills ...	1,50,000	1,50,000	
Palace grounds and Garden ...	6,000	6,000	
Other House-hold expenditure ...	2,49,199	2,47,499	
Ordinary administrative expenditure ...	11,80,912	13,43,351*	
Extension of Railway (in lieu of repayment of loan)	1,00,679		
Repayment of Railway loan ...	.....	1,00,000	
Repayment in full of 3½ lakh loan with interest	1,77,700	.....
Total Rs. ...	21,64,490	21,46,850	

* This includes Rs. 80,397, for earth-quake repairs, Rs. 62,000 for rebuilding houses demolished by the earth-quake in Darjeeling, Rs. 28,000 for electric lighting of the Palace, and Rs. 16,700 payment of part the price of Colinton; a total of Rs. 1,87,097 leaving Rs. 11,56,254 as ordinary expenditure.

31. *Effect of the earth-quake on the budget.*—The anticipations of the budget would have been fully realized, and the improved collections of the year under Land Revenue would have converted the deficit as budgetted into a surplus, but for the earth-quake of the 12th of June. Your Highness at once recognized that such a catastrophe must be met by extraordinary measures, and that the administration of the State must be provided for, even at the risk of unduly depleting the Treasury. Although agricultural prospects were good at the time of the earth-quake, it was too early to reckon with any degree of certainty on improved revenue, and in sanctioning the expenditure of a lakh of rupees for public works in addition to the sum of Rs. 73,681 already granted in the budget, Your Highness accepted the risk of depleting the cash balance by over two lakhs of rupees, a sum of Rs. 15,000 having been granted for famine relief prior to the date of the earth-quake, as well as a bonus of one rupee a month for the three months during which the price of food grains was at its highest to all servants of the State drawing Rs. 10 and under. These sums added to the deficit of Rs. 84,398 originally budgetted made up a possible deficit of over two lakhs.

32. *Revised budget of 1897-98.*—Under the above circumstances, combined with the writing off of the Selim Tea Company shares and ...

an anticipated increase of Rs. 1,02,428 under revenue. This last increase may be attributed entirely to land revenue, the figures under that heading, including debutter, shewing an increase of Rs. 1,31,800. Stamps were estimated to give Rs. 5,000, and public works Rs. 5,800 better than the estimate; the last increase being due to the use of timber from the State forests for sleepers. Decreased revenue, was anticipated under House-hold Rs. 17,879, Excise Rs. 4,000, Darjeeling Estates Rs. 10,000, and the Cooch Behar State Railway Rs. 10,000. The decrease under House-hold was due partly, Rs. 16,950, to failure in selling all the elephants caught in the Khedda of 1896, and a fair number of those caught in 1897 within the year; partly, Rs. 6,000, to the withdrawal from sale of some of the old elephants rendered necessary by the death of two elephants. The decrease in excise was due to the settlements having been made when the scarcity was at its worst. The rents in Darjeeling fell off owing to the destruction of Rockville, Chevrement, Castleton, Sunny Site and Snowy View, and the partial destruction of the Hermitage by the earth-quake. The loss in the working of the Railway was due to the same cause.

Expenditure in the revised budget showed an increase of Rs. 3,06,942 distributed as follows :—

	Rs.
I.—House-hold	4,667
II.—Administration	2,29,564
III.—Debutter	443
IV.—Your Highness' Estates...	68,779
V.—Cooch Behar State Railway	7,284
Total	3,10,687

The total was reduced to Rs. 3,06,942 by a saving of Rs. 3,745 in the interest payable for the Government loan of 1895 for 3½ lakhs.

Under the heading of I House-hold there were a good many minor changes, the chief increase being a provision of an additional sum of Rs. 5,000 for the education of the Maharaj-Kumar due to short remittance in the previous year.

Under II. Administration, (1) Control, the net increase was Rs. 1,20,151, but of this sum Rs. 1,11,217 are a nominal charge, not affecting the cash balance, due to the writing off to profit and loss of the Selim Tea Company shares (one lakh), and other minor debts.

The excess anticipated expenditure under Administration (2) General, amounting to Rs. 1,21,422, was due to the increased expenditure under Public Works, Rs. 1,04,572; to the contribution for Famine relief, Rs. 15,000; and to the increased pay granted to low paid servants, which is shown under each Department separately. The increase under Your Highness' Estates, Rs. 68,779, was due chiefly to the Darjeeling expenditure, which was expected to amount to Rs. 67,770 over the estimate, out of which Rs. 47,000 were due to reconstruction of houses, and the balance chiefly to earth-quake repairs. The estimated increase of Rs. 7,284 in the State Railway expenditure was expected to cover the earth-quake and flood repairs. As a set off a saving of Rs. 12,572 was expected under (3) Revenue, due chiefly to an expected saving of Rs. 16,000 under the provision for the Bijni law suit.

38. *Actual figures for the year 1897-98.*—The actual figures for the year are far better than could possibly have been anticipated, and Your Council congratulate Your Highness most heartily on the elasticity which the revenue has shown, even in a year of such disaster as 1897-98.

The revenue from all sources amounted to Rs. 22,39,668 being Rs. 1,59,576 better than the original budget, and Rs. 57,158 better than the revised budget; while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 24,12,101, being Rs. 2,47,611 greater than the original budget, and Rs. 59,381 less than the revised budget. The result is that the deficit on the year was only Rs. 1,72,433, or, if the excess nominal expenditure on profit and loss, Rs. 1,11,217, be deducted, the year closed with a deficit of Rs. 61,216 only, as compared with the original estimate of a deficit of Rs. 84,398; and this result was obtained in spite of the fact that Rs. 1,77,449 were spent on earthquake repairs, as shown in the Accountant-General's report, not one pice of which was originally budgetted. The total revenue is in fact the highest ever collected, being Rs. 66,345 better than in 1894-95, which has hitherto been the record year. The land revenue, Rs. 17,72,550, (Land-Revenue proper, Debutter, Chaklajat and Panga) is the highest ever collected being Rs. 2,452 better than, in 1894-95, while also, as shown in the Accountant-General's report, almost every major item of revenue shows good results.

In the estimate for 1897-98 the cash balance at the beginning of the year was taken at Rs. 8,72,698, but as stated in paragraph 30 it actually amounted to Rs. 9,42,319.

The closing balance was taken at Rs. 8,07,671 in the original estimate and at Rs. 9,06,405 in the revised estimate while the actuals were Rs. 10,54,145. This last figure, however, includes the greater part (Rs. 1,41,102) of the Railway loan of two lakhs, and the actual position of the State appears more clearly from the balance belonging to the State. Omitting all money belonging to the Government of Bengal, deposits &c., the opening State balance in the Treasury was as shewn in paragraph 30 Rs. 5,84,510 and the closing balance was Rs. 5,14,714. The cash belonging to the State was thus reduced during the year by a sum of Rs. 69,796 only.

34. *Your Highness' Personal Expenditure in 1897-98.*—The steps Your Highness decided to adopt for regulating Your personal expenditure and restricting it within budget limits were entirely successful. The budgetted sum of three lakhs was not exceeded, and the Council have been given to understand that no new debts were incurred.

35. *Budget for 1898-99.*—Your Highness decided that the budget of the year 1898-99 must show a small surplus, and that the expenditure should be regulated keeping this in view. It was deemed unwise to encroach on the cash balance in a year which was in itself, i.e. apart from the expenditure entailed by the earth-quake, expected to be normal, both on the receipt and expenditure side, while at the same time it was held necessary to give as large a grant as possible towards completing the earth-quake repairs. The budget has therefore been framed showing an estimated revenue of Rs. 21,78,661, being Rs. 8,854 less than the revised estimate of 1897-98, Rs. 66,007 less than the actuals, but Rs. 93,509 more than the original budgetted estimate, of that year. The expenditure has been taken at Rs. 21,46,850, or a decrease of Rs. 3,24,582 on the revised estimate of 1897-98, and of Rs. 2,65,251 on the actuals. As compared with the original budget of 1897-98 the decrease is Rs. 17,640. The large item of Rs. 1,77,700 provided in that budget for payment of the Government loan, is balanced in 1898-99 by large expenditure for earth-quake repairs.

The Council consider that, if no unforeseen calamity interferes with the prosperity of the State, the collections will at least equal the estimate. The chief instances as compared with the budget of 1897-98 are Rs. 1,19,520 under Land Revenue; Rs. 3,350 under Stamps; Rs. 14,500,

under Debutter; Rs. 9,122, under Ghaklajat and Rs. 10,000 under Railway. A large decrease of Rs. 60,055 is shown in the revenue under Household, as no elephants are proposed to be sold from the Philkhana during the year, and no provision is made for Khedda. The only other decrease of any importance is under II (b) Darjeeling Estates, where there is a decrease of Rs. 8,614. This is due to decreased receipts from rent, owing to destruction of houses by the earth-quake.

The estimate of expenditure under Household is almost the same as the estimate for 1897-98, the difference being Rs. 1,700 only. The sum of Rs. 8,00,000 is again provided for Your Highness' personal expenditure, Rs. 1,50,000 for payment of out-standing bills, and Rs. 6,000 for the Palace grounds and garden. The chief items of increase are a provision of Rs. 20,000 in place of Rs. 14,000 for the education of the Maharaj-Kumars, due to Your Highness' second son having been sent to England; a net increase of Rs. 2,659 under (g) miscellaneous, caused by the provision of funds for the purchase of insignia for the Maharaj-Kumar; an increase of Rs. 1,836 under Philkhana establishment, due partly to the omission of the fodder allowance in last year's budget, and partly to the increase of pay of mates and characuts; an increase of Rs. 1,000 under stables, being provision to replace horses that died during the last year; an increase of Rs. 4,300 under shooting camp, the sum of Rs. 4,000 having been found to be too small; and finally an increase of Rs. 7,271 under the Band, partly to provide new uniform, and partly as pay of new Bandsmen. The other items of increase are petty. The chief items of decrease are Rs. 14,207 owing to omission of Khedda expenditure, and Rs. 10,000 under the heading of the 60th Anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession.

Under Control there is an increase of Rs. 7,723 as compared with the estimates of 1897-98, of which Rs. 7,000 are due to increased provision under Unforeseen and Rs. 700 to increased provision for travelling allowance of the State Council. The other items are petty.

Under Administration, General, the increase amounts to Rs. 1,06,217. This is more than accounted for by the increased provision of Rs. 1,08,175 under Public Works. Under Education there is also an increase of Rs. 1,892 due partly to annual increment of pay of the Principal and Professors of the College, and partly to the increased grant of Rs. 1,000 given by Your Highness to Primary Education. Under most headings the fluctuation is small, but Jail, Police, and Military show substantial decreases, due, respectively, to the reduced Jail population, the revision of the Police establishment, and to the fact that the amounts required for uniform and ammunition are so small as to more than counterbalance the increased pay granted to the Palace guards. Under Revenue there is a decrease of Rs. 33,702 which is fully accounted for by the decrease of Rs. 36,000, under the provision for Bijni Estate business. There is also an increase of Rs. 3,001 under pensions, and this item is growing fast. Special pensions alone have increased from Rs. 2,614 in 1895-96 to Rs. 8,678 in the year under budget. The other items under Revenue do not call for remark, nor does the small increase of Rs. 362 under Law and Justice.

Heading III, Debutter, calls for no remarks. Under heading IV there is a very large increase of Rs. 81,774 under Darjeeling, of which Rs. 62,000 are for rebuilding houses destroyed by the earth-quake, and Rs. 16,700 as part payment of the price of Colinton, leaving a sum of one lakh still due. The rest of the increase is due to provision for re-roofing the part of Colinton which has not yet been done, for painting several of the rooms, and for laying on wires for electric lighting.

Under heading V, Cooch Behar State Railway, a reduction of Rs. 1,766 is shown, the figures being founded on those supplied by the Manager, Eastern Bengal State Railway. A sum of one lakh of rupees is also provided for the re-payment of the Railway loan, which payment has been in abeyance for two years, having been transferred to extension.

36. *Debts other than the Railway Loan.*—In paragraph 53 of last year's report the debts, apart from the Railway loan, remaining on the 31st of March 1898 were put down as follow:—

	Rs.
Balance of Your Highness' personal debts ...	1,50,000
Ditto price of Colinton ...	1,13,459
Total Rs.	2,63,459.

It was stated that these debts could easily be cleared off in 1898-99. This would have been the case but for the enormous expenditure entailed by the earth-quake amounting as above shown to Rs. 1,77,449 in the past year, and to about the same sum in the current year*. In spite of this disturbing element Rs. 1,50,000 have been provided for the first object, and Rs. 16,700 for the second. It is hoped that the former of these sums will clear Your Highness' old debts in full, but, pending the result of negotiations entrusted to Your Private Secretary, Mr. C. Plowden, it is impossible to be quite certain on this point. In any case the balance will be comparatively small. The sum of Rs. 16,700 is provided towards the price of Colinton in order to reduce the unpaid balance to Rs. 1,00,000, which sum it is expected can be paid in full next year. The difference between Rs. 1,13,459 shown in last year's report and Rs. 1,16,700 shown in this, is due to miscalculation of interest.

37. *The Railway Loan.*—When these sums are paid, no debt will be due by Your Highness privately, or by the State, except the Railway loan due to Government. That loan has been increased by two lakhs in the year under report by a further advance of that sum by the Government of India, for the construction of the extension of the line from Cooch Behar northward to the boundary of Your Highness' State. Including that sum, but excluding interest for 1897-98, the Accountant-General's report shows that the sum due by the State is Rs. 6,54,932, and, as above shown in paragraph 30, payment of one lakh of this sum is provided in the current year's budget. This is a debt which gives no anxiety, and which will be wiped off entirely in a very few years by easy payments of one lakh a year, while the Railway is a most valuable addition to the assets of the State.

38. *The financial position.*—From the above review it will be seen that the finances of the State have borne a year of extraordinary pressure with comparative ease, and that it is anticipated that in the current year also, it will be possible to meet all extraordinary expenditure on account of earth-quake damages from revenue. These damages as shown in paragraph 8 amount to over 20 lakhs, and it will take many years to restore every thing to its previous condition, but Your Council are of opinion that the severe strain of urgent repairs will cease after 1899-1900, and that thereafter work may be undertaken as funds are available, and not as at present under pressure.

III (c.)—QUASI POLITICAL.

39. *Empress' Birth-day.*—The Birth-day of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress of India was celebrated in the usual manner on the 24th of May, Your Highness in person with Your staff being present at the parade.

* Vide paragraph 30. The items are earth-quake repairs Rs. 80,397; re-building houses destroyed Rs. 62,000 and electric lighting Rs. 29,000; total Rs. 1,70,397. Electric lighting was decided on owing to the destruction of chandeliers and lamps by the earth-quake.

40. *60th Anniversary of the Queen's accession to the Throne.*—To celebrate in a fitting manner, the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India Your Highness ordered a Durbar on the 21st of June 1897, preparations for which were being made, when the earth-quake occurred, and laid Your Highness' Palace and the Durbar Hall in ruins. Your Highness was most reluctantly compelled to abandon the Durbar. You were however able to carry out so much of the intended programme as conferred benefits on your subjects in commemoration of the event. As above stated Your Highness remitted a lakh of rupees of revenue and rent throughout Your State and Zemindaries. You also conferred the title of Mahamahadhyapak on Pundit Sidhya Nath Bidyabagish of Khagrabari, remitted the balance of the loan granted to him, and also granted him a conveyance allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem; conferred the privilege of using *asha* and *shota* on Babus Mon Mohan Buxi of Nowdanga and Satish Chandra Mustafi of Gobrasara; and conferred the privilege of a seat in Durbar on Ganga Bishen Patwar of Cooch Behar. You were also pleased to remit the balance of the loan granted to Raj Guru, Hari Lal Gossyami, during the minority of Your Highness to save the family from ruin. Lakheraj lands amounting to 60 Bighas were granted to the Sadasya family, and life allowances were granted to certain poor persons. Two life convicts from the Andamans, and four life convicts and two other convicts from the Cooch Behar Jail were released. Your Highness also decided to name the railway bridge over the Torsa "The Victoria Bridge" and to place a suitable inscription on it commemorating the event.

The following Kharita was received by your Highness from His Excellency the Governor-General of India:—

To—LIEUTENANT COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJAH SIR NRIPENDRA

NARAYAN BHUP BAHADUR, G. C. I. E., COOCH BEHAR.

MY FRIEND,

In this memorable year the subjects of our beloved Sovereign are uniting in every part of the world in a celebration of unique and special interest. That Her Majesty's reign has now exceeded in its duration the reign of any of Her predecessors on the British throne, is an historical event of the highest importance. Much might be written of the benefits which this reign has secured to Her Majesty's subjects. During this period, the power of the Empire having been increased and consolidated, and the blessings of peace and security having been thereby attained, the efforts of Government have, under the benign rule of Her Majesty, been constantly directed to the encouragement of every movement that could tend to the well-being of the inhabitants of Her vast dominions. The progress of knowledge, both as to the conditions under which human life exists, and the means by which those conditions can be improved, has been unexampled, and great discoveries, such as those of the use of steam and electricity, for which an age of peace and prosperity has afforded the opportunity, have been utilised in the work of civilisation; so that the products of the soil are gathered into the markets of the world to the mutual advantage of the cultivators in the remote district and of the crowded population in the great city, while the fruits of the knowledge and experience of the scholar, and the man of affairs, are made available to those who dwell in the distant regions of the earth. I will not detain Your Highness by dilating on these things. Your Highness will be the first to recognise that in them India has had her full share.

I feel convinced however that the thought which at this time will fill the mind of Your Highness, and of every one who owes allegiance to Her Majesty, is one of affection and devotion for Her Majesty's person. It will be specially gratifying to me to report to Her Majesty the manner in which Your Highness

and the other Chiefs and Princes of India have testified their loyalty on an occasion so full of significance to Herself as the 60th anniversary of Her accession to the Throne. I have reason to know that it was Her Majesty's wish and intention to assemble around Her, at the ceremonies of this day, the representatives of Her Indian Empire. Her Majesty abandoned that intention, because in this year of famine and pestilence She was resolved to issue no command or even invitation that could result in drawing away any single individual from the primary duty of carrying relief to the suffering and distressed. Your Highness will, I am sure, find in that decision one more instance of the thoughtful care and tenderness for Her people, and for none more than for Her Indian subjects, which has been one of the guiding characteristics of Our Sovereign's life.

I write this letter to assure Your Highness how entirely I shall sympathise with you in the celebration with which you purpose to mark this day of rejoicing. If we cannot personally present our homage on bended knee, it can be as lovingly felt, as loyally expressed, and I rejoice to know that from every part of India our united message of devotion will flash across the sea to Her Majesty in Her distant home.

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,

(Sd.) ELGIN.

Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

SIMLA ;

The 5th June 1897.

The following reply was sent by Your Highness.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE VICTOR ALEXANDER BRUCE,
EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, P.C., L.L.D., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E.,
VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA.

MY FRIEND,

I am in receipt of Your Excellency's Kharita, dated the 5th of June, with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret.

I had hoped to receive it at a Durbar I ordered to be held to celebrate the auspicious event of the 60th anniversary of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress' accession to the Throne, and I had, with my people, intended to show by rejoicings the feelings of loyalty which they and I entertain towards our beloved Sovereign. But the great earth-quake of the 12th June which laid my Palace and Durbar Hall in ruins and caused enormous loss throughout my State, rendered it impossible for me to carry out my wishes.

The Superintendent of my State, Mr. D. R. Lyall, has forwarded through the Government of Bengal a report of the arrangements made to celebrate the day of rejoicing and how far it was possible to carry them out. Here I need only say that I rejoice I was able to carry out so much of the intended programme as conferred benefits on my subjects, in commemoration of the unique and unparalleled event.

I venture to hope that my action was such as Her Gracious Majesty would approve, whose thoughtful care and tenderness for her people Your Excellency so justly dwells upon.

Although the outward signs of rejoicing were thus necessarily curtailed, I can assure Your Excellency that I yield to none in feelings of loyalty, affection and devotion to our beloved Sovereign.

I remain,

Your Excellency's sincere friend,

(Sd.) NRIPENDRA NARAYAN BHUP,

*Maharajah Bhup Bahadur of
Cooch Behar.*

DARJEELING :

The 14th July 1897

41. *Maintenance by the State of roads in British territory.*—The proposal of the Superintendent of the State regarding the transfer of the cost of maintenance of roads in British territory in the Districts of Julpaiguri and Rungpore, hitherto maintained by the State, to the respective District Boards, received the sanction of the Government of Bengal with effect from the 1st of April 1898.

42. *Teesta-Dhubri road.*—The Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway enquired whether 11 miles and 200 feet of the Teesta-Dhubri road situated in the State could be made over for the purpose of a proposed railway line from Kaunia to Pando Ferry, Gauhati. Your Highness in Council was pleased to reply that the embankment would be made over on condition that the land should be returned if not used as a railway, and that the territorial jurisdiction over the land should be retained by the State. No reply to this letter has been received as yet.

43. *Rules to regulate the transport and importation of explosives.*—The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division drew the attention of Your Highness to Notification No. 1393 of the 8th of July 1897, by the Government of India in the Home Department, promulgating rules to regulate the transport and importation of explosives under the explosives Act IV of 1884, and requested that, if considered necessary, draft rules similar to those issued by the Government of India, and adapted to the requirements of the State, should be framed and issued. It was not thought necessary to introduce similar rules, the Act under which they are promulgated in British India not being in force here, and, as the State is surrounded by British territory, no explosives can be imported unless under the rules of the Government of India. A reply has been sent accordingly.

44. *Adjustment of boundary dispute between the State and the Rungpur District.*—In 1892 the Government of Bengal relinquished to the State six detached plots of land measuring 190 B. 10 K. 12 D. which had hitherto been considered as portion of the Rungpur Village No. 16 Keshamat Shib Prosad Mustafi in Your Highness' Zemindaries of Purbobhag. These six plots have recently been incorporated in the rent roll of Sub-division Dinhata under the name of talook Keshamat Mokrary, Part II.

III (d.)—PUBLIC WORKS.

45. *Cooch Behar State Railway.*—The Railway continued to be worked under the Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway after the former arrangements. The earth-quake caused great damage to the line and the State had to pay a sum of Rs. 19,304 in the year under report for earth-quake and flood damages, in addition to the contract sum paid for up-keep.

The new line to Cooch Behar, and the bridge over the Torsa have not yet been completed as was expected last year. The earth-quake caused considerable changes in the banks of the river at the site of the bridge, and it was not until Sir A. C. Trevor, K.C.S.I., the Public Works Member of Council, accompanied by the Engineers of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, visited the spot in December, that it was decided to adhere to the site previously chosen. This caused considerable delay in the beginning of the work, and three valuable months were lost. The result was that the bridge could not be finished, and it is feared that loss will be caused to the State.

46. *Extension of the Railway to Jainti.*—In the end of December, the Government of India sanctioned the construction of the part of this line in British territory, as well as a loan of two lakhs of rupees

to Your Highness to meet part of the cost of the construction of the portion of the line falling in Your Highness' territory, and directed construction to be pressed on as fast as possible. The work, both in and beyond the State, is in charge of Babu Kedar Nath Majumdar, Your Highness' Superintendent of Works, under the supervision of the Engineer-in-Chief of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Considerable progress was made in the short time left for work, details of which are to be found in the report of the Superintendent of the State.

47. *Railway Revenue.*—The gross assets for the year 1897-98 amounted to Rs. 62,656, as against Rs. 71,928 in 1896-97, and working expenses to Rs. 47,499, including the above mentioned sum of Rs. 19,304 on account of earth-quake repairs, as against Rs. 32,858, the net income being thus Rs. 15,157 against Rs. 39,070 of the preceding year. But for this extraordinary payment the profit would have been Rs. 34,461. Apart from the cost of repairs, the above figures show that the earth-quake was responsible for a considerable reduction in the earnings of the Railway, which was closed for nearly a month.

48. *Railway Administration Report.*—The financial statement for the calender year 1897, submitted by the Manager, Eastern Bengal State Railway, is as follows. In this report the cost of the extraordinary repairs is not included :—

	For the year 1896.	For the year 1897.
Mean mileage worked Miles.	22.12	22.12
Train mileage "	17,582	22,740
Gross earnings Rs.	70,128	64,261
Working expenses "	31,558	28,917
Net earnings "	38,570	35,344
Number of passengers carried No.	77,767	62,492
Earnings from above Rs.	25,994	21,083
Tonnage of goods carried Tons.	13,187	14,607
Earnings from above Rs.	34,757	31,771
Percentage of working expenses to gross earnings ...	45.00	45.00
Percentage of net earnings on Capital outlay, including suspense. ...	5.08	4.58

The net earnings for the year were transferred to the Civil Department, for payment to Your Highness.

The increased number of train miles run and the increased tonnage of goods carried are due to the Earth-quake repairs, and to the carriage of material for extension of the line.

The decreased number of passengers carried is due to the line having been closed for a month for repairs. The decrease in earnings from the increased tonnage of goods is due to the lower rate payable for carriage of material.

III.—(c) MISCELLANEOUS.

49. *Appointments and Resignation.*—The following gazetted officers were appointed during the year :—

Babu Pramatha Nath Chatterjee, M.A. B.L. Sub-Naib Ahilkar.
 „ Jagadbulabh Biswas, M.A. B.L. Do.

Babu Surendra Nath Chuckerbutty, M.A. B.L., Sub-Naib Ahilkar resigned his post from the 12th of May 1897.

50. *Allowances, Pensions and Gratuities.*—The following pensions, gratuities and allowances were granted during the year :—

PENSION TO.—

	Rs.	a.	p.	
Constable Didar Ali Nasya	4	0	0	per mensem.
Srinath Tarafdar, Peshkar, Settlement Department	25	0	0	"
Shaik Ibrahim, Golandas	8	11	6	"
Chandra Sing Kumar, Overseer, P. W. D. ...	5	5	4	"
Ram Dhani Mistry, Head Blacksmith, Artizan School	17	8	0	"
Chandra Mohan Gupta, Ameen, Settlement Dept.	9	4	8	"
Constable, Sirdar Singh	4	8	0	"
Do. Puran Tewari	2	14	11	"
Do. Budhu Nasya	2	12	9	"
Din Doyal Chowdhury, State Agent on special duty in Bijni case	80	0	0	"
Constable Nitya Nanda Dobey	4	6	6	"
Prasanna Chandra Sen, 4th Master, Jenkins' School	15	2	2	"
Dr. D. D. Gupta, Civil Surgeon	240	0	0	"
Constable Etrait Hossein	8	2	0	"
Do. Ram Sing	2	18	7	"
Do. Shaik Kaloo	2	6	4	"
Modhu Sudan Bhowmik, Founzdary Peshkar ...	25	0	0	"
Constable Ashok Mohamed	4	0	0	"
Havildar, Basjit Sing	6	0	0	"
Sepoy Shaki Chand Pandey	8	8	0	"
Sepoy Ram Doyal Sing	3	8	0	"
Naik Matwal Das	5	0	0	"
Braja Chandra Mazumdar, Head Pundit, Gosani-mari Model School	3	0	0	"
Surjya Kanta Bose, Accountant, Cooch Behar Estate, Darjeeling	45	1	6	"
Sepoy Gonesh Sing	3	8	0	"

GRATUITIES TO.—

Constable Shaik Laban	72	0	0
Maniruddin Khalifa, Toshakhana Department	90	0	0
Ram Narain Chowdhury, 3rd Additional Teacher, Jenkins' School	180	0	0
Alibax, Chaprassee, P. W. D. Godown ...	42	0	0
Sepoy Bishnu Doyal Sing	152	0	0

ALLOWANCE TO.—

Amrita Sunker Sharbadhakhya	1	14	0	Per mensem.
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51. *Central store of stationery.*—A saving of Rs. 1,000 has been shewn in the revised budget of this year also. Articles to the value of Rs. 4,822-4-9, only were purchased, so that the actual saving has been over Rs. 1,500. Articles to the value of Rs. 4,143-4-0 were supplied to the several indenting officers of the State. The friction referred to last year has not ceased, but as officers get more accustomed to the system it will decrease. The grants to some offices will have to be increased.

52. *Khedda.*—The operations of the year are detailed in the report of the Superintendent of the State. Owing to the nature of season the operations were cut short as the elephants were suffering in health. The want of the supervision of the Superintendent of the Philkhana was also felt. The financial results were not therefore so good as those of the previous year, but they are still satisfactory. Six elephants are still unsold.

53. *Grade and scale of pay of Mohurirs.*—Owing to the low scale of pay of the mohurirs, and the difficulty felt by them owing to the general rise in the price of articles of food, Your Highness in Council was pleased to sanction the following scheme for their benefit.

There are 70 mohurirs in all the departments of the offices in the State, of whom 24 have been placed in the 1st grade, and 23 each in the second and third grades respectively. The scale of pay of the three grades has been fixed at Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 by an annual increment of Re. 1; at Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 by the same annual increment; and at Rs. 20 respectively. Of the 24 in the 1st grade 2 previously drew Rs. 40 each, and no alteration was made as regards the pay of these men.

The scheme is being worked from the 1st of April 1898.

54. *Civil suit by Kumar Lalit Narayan of Bijni.*—The Kumar instituted a title suit against Rani Abhoyeswari of Bijni and took loans from the State for the prosecution of his case. The suit has been compromised, and Rani Abhoyeswari has executed a bond for Rs. 70,000 in liquidation of part of these loans in favour of the State, and has engaged to pay maintenance to the Kumar.

55. *Leave to Gazetted officers.*—The following gazetted officers were granted the period and kind of leave noted against their names.

Names of officers.	LEAVE GRANTED.	
	Kind.	Amount.
1. Babu Jadab Chander Chackerbutty, Civil & Sessions Judge	Privilege.	1 month & 15 days.
2. Mr. T. Ashton, Superintendent of the Philkhana ...	Do.	3 months.
3. Babu Surendra Nath Chackerbutty, offg. Sub-Naib Ahilkar	Extraordinary.	6 days.
4. " Guru Prasanna Sinha, Inspector of Police ...	Medical.	5 months & 6 days.
5. " Ashutosh Ghosh, Naib Ahilkar ...	Privilege.	1 month.
6. " Nilkanta Chatterjee, State Pleader, Public Prosecutor and Law Lecturer.	Extraordinary.	24 days.
7. " Narendra Nath Sen, Assistant Civil Judge ...	Privilege.	3 months.
8. " Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, Naib Ahilkar ...	Do.	3 months.
9. " Promatha Nath Chatterjee, Sub-Naib Ahilkar ...	Extraordinary.	10 days.
10. " Raj Krishna Das, Malcutchery Naib Ahilkar and Treasury officer.	Privilege.	2 months & 6 days.
11. " Mohit Lal Sen, Assistant Surgeon... ..	Do.	1 month & 26 days.
12. " Priya Nath Dutt, Fouzdary Ahilkar ...	Do.	2 months & 17 days.
13. " Priya Nidhan Pulit, Head Clerk & Sheristadar, Superintendent of State's office.	Do.	2 months & 4 days.
14. " Uma Charan Roy, Head-Master Jenkins' School ...	Do.	15 days.

56. *Council office Establishment and conduct of officers.*—Babu Satis Chandra Mustafi held the office of the Secretary during the year under report. The Council would be pleased to see this officer put more heart into his work.

Babu Basanta Kumar Sen, Head-clerk, has discharged his duties creditably and to the entire satisfaction of the Council. Babu Sites Chandra Sanyal, Peshkar, *Babu Shoshi Bhusan Sen, 2nd clerk, and the rest of the office staff performed their respective duties satisfactorily.

We have the honor to be,

YOUR HIGHNESS'

Most obedient servants,

D. R. LYALL,

Superintendent of the State, Vice-President.

CALICA DOSS DUTT,

Dewan of the State, Member.

PRIYA NATH DUTT,

Civil and Sessions Judge of the State,

Judicial Member.

STATE COUNCIL, COOCH BEHAR.

Statement shewing the institution & disposal of Regular Appeals for the year 1897-98

From what Department.		Pending at the beginning of the year.	Instituted during the year.	Total.	DISPOSED OF.								Total.	Pending.	Over six months.	Over twelve months.
					Dismissed on default.	Compromised.	Modified.	Reversed.	Confirmed.	Struck off.	Remanded.	Rejected.				
Civil Department.	Title Suits	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
	Small Cause Court Suits .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rent Suits .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Revenue Department .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL		1	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..

Statement shewing the institution & disposal of Criminal Appeals for the year 1897-98.

From what Department.		Pending at the beginning of the year.	Instituted during the year.	Total.	DISPOSED OF.				Pending.	Remarks.
					Dismissed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Total.		
Sessions Court		2	7	9	7	1	..	8	1	

Statement shewing the institution & disposal of Special Appeals for the year 1897-98.

From what Department.		Pending at the beginning of the year.	Instituted during the year.	Total.	DISPOSED OF.								Total.	Pending.	Over six months.	Over twelve months.
					Dismissed on default.	Compromised.	Modified.	Reversed.	Confirmed.	Struck off.	Remanded.	Rejected.				
Civil Department.	Title Suits	8	12	20	..	..	..	4	16	..	..	..	19	1	..	..
	Small Cause Court Suits .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rent Suits	2	8	10	..	..	..	2	8	..	..	..	7	1	..	..
Revenue Department .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL		10	19	29	..	..	..	6	24	..	..	..	26	2	..	..

STATE COUNCIL, COOCH BEHAR.

Statement shewing the institution & disposal of Motions for the year 1897-98.

From what Department.	Pending at the beginning of the year.	Instituted during the year.	Total.	DISPOSED OF.				Pending.	REMARKS.
				Granted.	Rejected.	Struck off.	Total.		
Civil Department	6	14	20	3	14	1	18	2	
Revenue Department .. ..	...	8	8	...	8	...	8	..	
Criminal Department .. ..	...	7	7	2	5	...	7	..	
TOTAL	6	24	30	5	22	1	28	2	

Statement shewing the institution & disposal of Miscellaneous Appeals for the year 1897-98.

From what Department.	Pending at the beginning of the year.	Instituted during the year.	Total.	DISPOSED OF.								Total.	Pending.
				Dismissed on default.	Compromised.	Modified.	Reversed.	Confirmed.	Struck off.	Remanded.	Rejected.		
Civil Department	8	8	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Revenue Department
TOTAL	8	8	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2

Statement shewing the institution and disposal of Miscellaneous cases for the year 1897-98.

Nature of cases.	Pending at the beginning of the year.	Instituted during the year.	Total.	DISPOSED OF.				Pending.	REMARKS.
				Granted.	Rejected.	Struck off.	Total.		
Miscellaneous cases	3	3	2	2	1	5	...	

Statement shewing the institutions and disposal of Small Cause Court reference for the year 1897-98.

Pending at the beginning of the year	...	...	...	.....
Instituted during the year	...	...	...	6
			Total	6
Disposed of	...	...	...	4
Pending	...	...	...	2

SATIS CHANDRA MUSTAFI,
Secretary, State Council, Cooch Beha

APPENDIX.

No. 2755, dated, Cooch Behar, the 15th. December, 1897.

From—D. R. LYALL, Esq., Superintendent of the State, Cooch Behar.

To—The President, State Council, Cooch Behar.

It has necessarily taken some time to compile a trustworthy record of the very extensive losses caused by the earth-quake of the 12th of June, and I offer no further apology for the delay in submitting the report called for by Council letter No. 698, dated the 16th of July last. On receipt of the above letter I asked the Fouzdary Ahilkar, and the Superintendent of Works to submit reports which have been received, and I shall make large use of them particularly of the latter.

2. This report will be divided into two main parts. I—The Earth-quake, its extent and nature, and II—The effects of the Earth-quake and particularly the losses caused by it.

3. I.—*The Earth-quake, its extent and nature.*—The shock took place a little before 5 P.M. on the 12th of June. The main wave was undoubtedly from north-east to south-west, but there was in addition to the main wave, an oscillating and rotary movement to which much of the damage may be ascribed. To this movement appears to be due much of the damage done to pillars and turrets, which were cut through, and turned partially round. From effects subsequently noted it would also appear that the *sub-strata* of the earth were in a violent state of commotion, working one in one direction, and another in another. This was shown by effect of the earth-quake on iron imbedded in holding sandy soil. One length of pipe in a Norton's tube-well had eleven bends in it when taken out, and Mr. Anderson, the Engineer-in-Chief of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, informs me that the same effect has been found in the Mogulhat bridge. I have not seen mention of this action in any book I have seen on the subject of earth-quakes.

The day was a fine one, and it was happily the Mohurram festival holiday, and in consequence nearly the whole of the inhabitants of the town were gathered in the Palace grounds. There was no indication whatever of the coming catastrophe, and the shaking had gone on for sometime before any sound was heard. The first oscillation was not violent, but it rapidly increased in force, and towards the middle the shocks were not only exceedingly violent, but the feeling was as if the earth was being shaken as a terrier does a rat or, as another has described it, as if a number of loose bricks were placed in a box and shaken. Shortly after the first severe shock the earth began to open up, and from many, but not all, of the fissures, water and sand were spouted out, but not to any great height. Personally I saw none over about two feet, and probably three feet was the utmost height attained, but many say it was much higher. The water that came out was warm, but not warmer than the temperature of ordinary sub-soil water at the end of a hot sunny day in June. There were reports of smoke, and hot water, and sulphurous smell, but I do not hold that there is any good evidence of such. This opening of the ground had apparently a more terrifying effect on the people than even the earth-quake itself. The fissures were in places very large and long, and at the same time as these opened out, the surface of the earth, which had been as fiat as a billiard table, became undulating, the earth sinking in places and rising in others. A rumour got about that the whole State would soon sink, and became a lake, and many people prepared rafts, to save themselves and their property from the anticipated flood. After the main shock there were many smaller shocks that same night, but I cannot find that any record was kept by any one that night. I annex a list marked A. of the subsequent shocks from records kept by the Civil Surgeon, and the Superintendent of Works, and supplemented between 28th June and 10th July by a record I kept up. This list, though it contains a record of no

less than 188 shocks in addition to the great shock, is by no means complete as many of the shocks which took place at night were not recorded, but it is sufficient to show the great number which took place for months after the 12th of June, and that the earth has not yet become quiescent. Some of these shocks would have been called severe had they occurred before the great earthquake. To the best of my belief these shocks have had a considerable effect in levelling the surface of the earth, and filling up fissures. It is remarkable that they have done practically no harm to the buildings in this State, either to those which suffered severely on the 12th of June, or to those which escaped on that day.

4. *II.—Effects of the Earth-quake.—(a) Loss of life.*—As above stated the great shock took place on the day of the Mohurram festival; all offices were therefore closed, and the great bulk of the people were out of doors, and to this may be attributed the comparatively small loss of life that took place. Outside the town of Cooch Behar there was no loss of life, and in the town eight only were killed. Of these five, two adults and three children, were buried in the ruins of the *Chotakothi*. One, an Aide-de-camp of Your Highness, was so severely injured in escaping from the Palace that he died that night. The seventh case was that of the watchman on duty on the Jubilee Tower to watch for fires. He fell with the tower, a height of nearly 60 feet, and yet lived for two days. The last case was that of a coolie who was under treatment in the Hospital. The verandah came down, and in trying to escape this man was knocked down and buried. There was one marvellous escape in the Palace. A small Ooriya servant was knocked down by, and buried under, a mass of masonry weighing many tons, and had to be pulled out, yet was absolutely uninjured, his body having fitted into a concave part of the mass. In the whole State, 17 cattle are reported to have been killed by the fall of houses.

5. *(b)—Damage to Pucca Houses and Buildings.*—I annex a statement marked B. showing the loss incurred in State buildings as estimated by the Superintendent of Works. In addition to the State buildings destroyed or damaged the Fouzdary Ahilkar reports that private pucca buildings to the value of Rs. 82,290 have been destroyed as shown in the margin.* The Superintendent of Works writes as follows regarding the damage done to the State houses.

Effect on buildings.—There had been three distinct causes of injury on each building, viz oscillation, fissures and sinking.

Oscillation.—Where damage had been caused only by oscillation it must be understood that it could have been avoided by adopting precautionary steps at the time of making the design of the building, and by using better materials, as well as by adopting better workmanship. The collapse of a portion of the west wing of the Palace and the damages caused by falling turrets are mainly attributable to oscillation. The portion of the Tennis Court roof would not have fallen if properly tied.

In spite of the fissure in the corner of the Superintendent of State's office, the verandah would not have collapsed if there had been connecting ties with the main building.

The damages done to the Jenkins' School building also belong to this class. But they are to be attributed neither to want of precautionary steps in the design, nor to bad workmanship, but to bad materials.

Fissures.—Several buildings have been torn asunder by fissures caused to the ground and extending to the structure resting on it. Had the materials and workmanship been good the fissures would not have caused the buildings to fall down as the Fouzdary Outchery, a portion of the Palace, a portion of the Lansdown Hall, and Kashi Kant Talooker's house would clearly testify.

Through all these buildings fissures passed from end to end, causing cracks in the foundation and superstructure, buildings stood the shock very well. The collapse of the Dewan's office was due to this cause, because the materials and the workmanship were not what one would wish.

Sinking.—The most dangerous of the three causes of damage as stated above is sinking. Neither the mortar joints nor the bricks are elastic enough to resist any amount of unequal sinking, or preventing any part of the structure from going out of plumb. When any building or a portion of it sinks, serious damage is sure to follow if the settlement be not uniform.

Sinking coupled with fissures has destroyed the following buildings:—

- (1) Superintendent of State's house.
- (2) Sub-divisional buildings.
- (3) Council office.

The last one could have resisted the slight sinking had the cementing materials been good.

The present condition of the Superintendent of State's house, even after the deplorable damages done to it, proves the value of good material and good workmanship in resisting the various causes of destruction. A corner of it sank 1'-6", the floors were up heaved, and a portion went about 2 feet out of the plumb, and fissures passed through all sides. In spite of all these the greater part of the building did not come down.

It is evident therefore that much can be done to minimise damages to buildings from earth-quakes, if their consequences are taken into consideration at the time of making the designs, selecting the sites, and if good materials be used, and skill in workmanship insured when they are constructed.

The Palace has suffered most from the first of the three causes named by the Superintendent of Works, owing to the effect of oscillation on the numerous turrets and terminals which adorned it. Practically the whole of these came down, and as many of them were solid masonry weighing many tons they broke their way through walls and roofs. But for such damages the north wing of the Palace would have almost escaped injury, and as the Superintendent of Works remarks the way in which the walls of the Palace and of the Superintendent's house stood, even after the enormous injuries received, shows how good workmanship pays. As a contrast I would instance the Chotakothi, the fall of which is mentioned above. It fell in front of me, and it simply collapsed into itself, no two bricks adhering to each other. To a smaller extent the case of the Treasury building, and the Jenkins' School is the same. The contractor must have put in either little, or bad lime, and so the buildings, were much more damaged than they ought to have been. It will be observed that the estimate sent up does not show cost of repairs. It would be impossible to show this until a decision is come to what is to be done in each case, and such decision will in many cases have to lie over for years.

6. (c)—*Damage to crops*.—I am thankful to be able to record that this was practically nil. The Foudary Ahilkar puts the damage in the whole State at Rs. 900. Even where fissures opened out, and sand was spread over the growing crops, the plants were for the most part sufficiently matured to be able to stand the shock. Had the crops been young, the damage would have been much greater, but the early or *Bisri* rice was nearly ripe, and the late rice and jute also suffered little. In a very few places the sand spread over the soil is so sterile, that crops can not be expected on the area affected for a year or two, but the most of the sand is of the same nature as the surface soil of the State, and no harm will result. In fact in places there appears to be actual benefit from the top dressing. Trees too suffered very little at the time, but since the earth-quake a good many trees have died apparently from the effect of the earth-quake on their roots. I have seen much more direct damage done to trees in a much less severe earth-quake.

7. (d)—*Damage to Wells*.—All classes of wells have been damaged whether *kutcha*, country-ringed, Ranigunge pipe, or masonry. Even one Norton's tube well was damaged, as stated in paragraph 3 of this report. Most of the wells which were yielding water at the time of the Earth-quake were filled up to their brim with sand. In a good many cases the sand so thrown up sunk some feet within the next few days, but this did not take place in all cases. The masonry and earthen-ware pipes on the wells were also broken and shattered. The damage to private wells is estimated by the Foudary Ahilkar at Rs. 16,900, while the Superintendent of Works estimates the damage to State wells at Rs. 10,000, and to wells in the town at Rs. 8,400. This officer also reports that the earth-quake cleared out some old and disused wells which had got filled up and that some such are now yielding good water. In such cases *lotaks* and other debris such as usually found in wells were shot up.

8. (e)—*Damage to Tanks*.—It will not be possible to estimate this damage fully until next spring, but it is known that the beds of many tanks have been

upheaved. In the town many tanks which were only partially full before the earth-quake at once became brimfull. The banks of tanks also suffered severely from fissures, and houses near tanks suffered badly from this cause. The fine tank known as *Bhonath's Dighee* near Goshaninari with its brick sides and stone ghats has suffered greatly. The Superintendent of Works reports that "the terraced platform has been cracked, bed upheaved and the brick facing destroyed". This was an important archaeological remain, and steps should be taken to prevent further damage. I do not think any money estimate of damage done to tanks can be more than a guess, but the Superintendent of Works puts down the damage to town tanks at Rs 45,500 and to mofussil tanks at Rs 15,000. I would only say that the banks of few have escaped damage, and that pucca ghats have also generally suffered.

9. (f)—*Damage to roads*.—As regards roads, the Superintendent of Works writes as follows :—

Effect on roads.—The roads have been damaged in two ways viz by fissures and sinking.

Fissures.—Fissures either run along the length of the roads for a considerable distance or cut across a road in passing through the fields.

In the 4th, and the 6th mile also in the Haldibari portion of the Emigration Road a series of longitudinal fissures were seen with very small spaces between each fissure. The subsequent flood and rain water accentuated the mischief caused by these fissures, and many serious damages to the roads were thus occasioned.

Sinking.—Almost all the roads in the State suffered more or less from sinking. It is curious to notice that miles and miles of roads subsided some 2 or 3 feet, and in some places altogether disappeared under the ground. Many good avenue trees have died on account of the subsidence of the ground.

The copy of the Cooch Behar map herewith enclosed will shew the position of the roads and their length, and the portions colored blue will indicate the parts that suffered either from sinking or from fissures.

I annex the map above referred to, and also a statement marked C prepared by the Superintendent of Works showing the value of the damage done to roads amounting to Rs 3,82,500. This damage can only be repaired very gradually, and it may not be found necessary to restore the roads in all cases to their old level. The estimate provides that this shall be done. As I shall have to remark in dealing with the effect of the earth-quake on the land, levels have been greatly affected, and low places upheaved, so that very probably where the road had to be raised four feet before the earth-quake one may be found sufficient now. Surface drainage will also be affected. It will therefore be wise to restrict road repairs for the current, and probably also for the following year, to such surface repairs as are found necessary to make the roads good cold-weather tracks, leaving the work of raising until the level actually required is better known. A few of the main roads will have to be more thoroughly repaired, but to attempt to deal with more than a few this year would probably be a mere waste of money.

10. (g)—*Effect on bridges*.—The Superintendent of Works also submits a statement herewith forwarded marked D showing Rs 68,900 as the amount of damage done to bridges. The positions of the main bridges are also marked on the map sent. On this subject he writes :—

The bridges have suffered more on account of sinking than any thing else. In case of bridges the sinking was very unequal, consequently the shape assumed by each bridge is fantastically curious.

Both the bed of the river in its different portions, as well as the road being of different consistency, each pier or abutment has been upheaved or depressed according to the nature of substratum on which they built.

Some bridges were made exactly like triangles. The abutment sank and the piers in the bed of the river or streamlet upheaved and the form given to the superstructure was exactly that of the two sides of a triangle. Some long bridges took so many different bends both horizontally and vertically that they were curious to look at, and appeared like steep hill railways and switch-back railways combined.

This description is in no way exaggerated, and it is marvellous to see how bridges can be contorted and twisted about, and yet remain serviceable. Straight bridges have been twisted into curves, one side of the road way has

been sunk, while the other has been raised, or the whole has been raised as mentioned by the Superintendent of Works. Bridges have also been forced three or four feet in many places over the land. The loss on bridges, like that on roads, can only be made good gradually.

11. (h)—*Damage to the Railway*.—The remarks on roads and bridges apply to the Railway, but the effects of the earth-quake and its enormous power were more strikingly marked on the Railway. The eye is accustomed to regularities of surface in roads, but an undulating Railway is an entirely new sensation. Necessarily these undulations, and still more the deviations from straight lines caused by the earth-quake, had to be removed before traffic could be resumed, but Messrs Kapp and Co. secured some photographs before the permanent way was restored, which show very vividly the effects of the earth-quake. I have in the last paragraph referred to the altered levels of the country, and this is very clearly visible in going along the line, as in many places the bridges now seem to be placed on the highest parts of the country, and there is a dip between each bridge. The Superintendent of Works estimates the damage done to the line at Rs 40,000 which is very much in excess of the sum named to me verbally by the Engineer-in-chief of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. That officer has submitted no estimate up to date, and I fear that of the Superintendent of Works is approximately correct.

12. (i)—*Effects on the Lands, Rivers and Drainage*.—I think it best to deal with the above effects under one heading, as the effects of the earth-quake are in many respects the same as regards all three, and to deal with them separately would entail a certain amount of repetition.

Previous to the earth-quake the whole land of this State was almost a dead level, with a slight slope from North to South, and with a few depressions caused by beds of rivers and water courses, and by bheels. Now it is more or less undulating, even though, as I have already stated in paragraph three, the subsequent shocks may to a certain extent have resulted in a restoration of the original state of things. The chief effects were upheavals, depressions, and fissures. With reference to upheavals the Superintendent of Works reports as follows:—

"Beds of old water-courses, Jheels and Bheels are the places which have been greatly upheaved. Owing to such upheavals many shyrat mehals in the State have lost their importance, and are likely not to yield as much revenue as they used to do before."

As stated by the Superintendent of Works the low parts of the State have in many places been raised, and on the whole I am inclined to think that the upheaval has been more general than the depression, and if I am correct in this view, the opinion expressed in paragraph nine that it will not be necessary to raise all the roads to their former level will hold good. This view is to some extent confirmed by the effect of the flood of the 2nd and 3rd September on the Railway. I believe that the line had before that date been lowered on an average about two feet, yet the flood did not damage it. I may also add the bheels reserved for the elephants have not yielded so much fodder as usual, owing to the smaller quantity of water in them. The depressions are in some cases in old beds of streams, though in most cases these have been upheaved, but are also very generally caused by fissures. Undoubtedly the most fear inspiring feature of the earth-quake was the fissures. No one had ever seen such a convulsion of nature, and none knew where they would end. In places they were very numerous, particularly on banks of rivers, and tanks, but they were just as numerous in other places far removed from such influence. To show how numerous the fissures were in places I may mention that where I pulled up at the time of the shock in the Maharanee's road there was one fissure just under my horse's nose a second under where I sat in a American buggy, and a third close to my hind wheel. Some were of great length, extending, the Superintendent of Works reports, for miles, and I have measured one close to my own house of over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. Their general direction was in the direction of the earth-quake wave, but there are many also running east and west, and these differences are observed in places not far from each other, and not affected by any river.

I annex a plan of the race course showing the fissures in this space. The soil of this area is less sandy than in most parts of the State, and, apparently from that cause the fissures here differed from those in the rest of the State. Where the soil was sandy the usual form of the fissure was a simple opening from which sand and water issued, while in the race course there was generally a double fissure, and the soil between these fissures sank from a foot to eighteen inches, and as a rule no sand or water issued. The traces of most fissures have been erased by cultivation, hence I have thought it well to preserve this record of the effects of the earth-quake.

The general opinion is that the beds of rivers have been raised, but owing to the extensive alterations of level above referred to it is difficult to give a very decided opinion. There is no doubt that owing to the fissures on the banks of rivers the current has done more damage to the banks than usual, and most of the rivers have been widened from this cause, but whether next rains will result in any extensive changes in the river system or not, it is now impossible to say. I am disposed on the whole to say that it will not do so, founding this opinion on the effects of the flood of the 2nd and 3rd September, but it will need the experience of at least one, and more probably two or three rains, before a final conclusion can be drawn, and the same may be said as regards drainage. All the upheavals and depressions above referred to must affect local drainage, and this was very visible in the town of Cooch Behar, but whether the effect will be bad or good no one can yet say.

13. The following is an abstract of the damage done within the State.

	Rs.
Damage to State buildings in Cooch Behar. Statement B ...	10,35,057
Damage to roads. Statement C.	3,82,500
Damage to bridges. Statement D.	68,900
Damage to roads, bridges, drains, tanks, and wells &c. in the towns under the Municipality	1,43,200
Damage to buildings other than state. <i>Vide</i> paragraph 5 ...	82,290
Damage to Railway. Paragraph 11	40,000
Damage to wells exclusive of town wells	26,900
Damage to tanks ditto tanks	15,000
Total	17,93,847

I have not included in the above the petty losses of crops, cattle and cutcha houses which may roughly be taken at about Rs. 2,250.

14. In addition to the above, losses to Your Highness' Zemindaries, Darjeeling, and Calcutta properties have also suffered from the earth-quake. The Superintendent of Works has valued the losses in the Zemindaries in buildings, tanks and wells at Rs. 18,000, and the loss at Woodlands at Rs 7,000. It is more difficult to value the Darjeeling losses as all the six houses which collapsed were old. Their rental was over 10,000 per annum, and it will cost over 2½ lakhs to rebuild them, but the houses were in themselves not of much value.

15. In a bare recital of facts like the present, it would be out of place to dwell on the more sensational aspects of the earth-quake. Your Highness' own escape was a very narrow one, and many others had equally narrow escapes. The small loss of life as compared with the enormous loss of property is specially noteworthy. It may roughly be said that most of the works done in Your Highness' reign have either been destroyed, or so badly damaged, as to require to be practically re-made, and for many years the demands on the budget for Public Works will be very heavy.

A.

Record of Earth-quake shocks.

Date.	Hour.	Date.	Hour.
12th June 1897.	5 p.m.	20th June 1897.	1 a.m.
13th "	9 a.m.	" "	7-20 a.m.
" "	1 p.m.	" "	2 p.m.
" "	4-45 p.m.	21st "	1-20 a.m.
14th "	7 a.m.	22nd "	8 p.m.
" "	7-30 a.m.	23rd "	1-20 a.m.
" "	11 a.m.	" "	6 p.m.
" "	11-30 a.m.	" "	7-5 p.m.
" "	12 p.m.	24th "	4-10 p.m.
" "	12-15 p.m.	25th "	9 p.m.
" "	12-45 p.m.	" "	9-10 p.m.
" "	1-30 p.m.	26th "	1-30 p.m.
" "	2-30 p.m.	" "	1-33 p.m.
" "	4-30 p.m.	27th "	10 p.m.
15th "	6 a.m.	28th "	8-10 a.m.
" "	7 a.m.	" "	7-55 a.m.
" "	10-45 a.m.	" "	1-30 p.m.
" "	2 p.m.	" "	3 p.m.
" "	5 p.m.	" "	3-43 p.m.
" "	6 p.m.	" "	10-30 p.m.
" "	7-50 p.m.	29th "	2-53 p.m.
" "	10-35 p.m.	" "	3 p.m.
" "	10-45 p.m.	" "	12 mid-night.
" "	11 p.m.	30th "	2-30 a.m.
" "	11-55 p.m.	" "	10-30 a.m.
16th "	12-3 a.m.	" "	10-45 a.m.
" "	12-8 a.m.	" "	11-35 a.m.
" "	1-15 a.m.	" "	1-30 p.m.
" "	1-33 a.m.	1st July 1897.	11-15 a.m.
" "	2 a.m.	2nd "	1-15 p.m.
" "	2-21 a.m.	3rd "	11-30 a.m.
" "	2-51 a.m.	" "	2-35 p.m.
" "	3-4 a.m.	" "	7 p.m.
" "	3-45 a.m.	4th "	8-15 a.m.
" "	4-26 a.m.	" "	8-15 p.m.
" "	11-25 a.m.	5th "	5-30 a.m.
" "	11-52 a.m.	" "	7-45 p.m.
" "	1-52 p.m.	6th "	11-40 a.m.
" "	2-15 p.m.	" "	1-30 p.m.
" "	2-45 p.m.	7th "	4-30 a.m.
" "	8 p.m.	" "	1-12 p.m.
" "	9-30 p.m.	" "	9 p.m.
" "	11-5 p.m.	8th "	3 a.m.
" "	11-15 p.m.	" "	7-25 a.m.
" "	11-40 p.m.	" "	8 a.m.
17th "	3-10 a.m.	9th "	12-30 p.m.
" "	3-25 a.m.	10th "	5-30 a.m.
" "	4-25 a.m.	" "	5-40 a.m.
" "	8 a.m.	12th "	1 a.m.
" "	11 a.m.	" "	7-45 a.m.
" "	7 p.m.	" "	11 a.m.
18th "	1-40 a.m.	" "	2-30 p.m.
" "	5-40 a.m.	13th "	4 a.m.
" "	8-30 a.m.	14th "	2-45 p.m.
" "	12 noon	" "	3-30 p.m.
" "	6 p.m.	" "	5 p.m.
" "	7 p.m.	" "	8 p.m.
19th "	5 a.m.	15th "	8 a.m.
" "	8-18 a.m.	" "	10-30 p.m.
" "	8-30 p.m.	16th "	5-30 a.m.
" "	9-34 p.m.	17th "	2-15 p.m.

Date.	Hour.	Date.	Hour.
18th July 1897.	12-5 a. m.	19th August 1897	4 a.m.
19th "	5-13 a. m.	21st "	11 a.m.
" "	6-40 a. m.	27th "	11 a.m.
" "	11-30 a. m.	28th "	4 a.m.
" "	8-30 p. m.	" "	6-30 a.m.
20th "	6-40 a. m.	" "	2-50 p.m.
21st "	2-30 p. m.	29th "	7 a.m.
" "	9-30 p. m.	" "	7-30 p.m.
22nd "	after mid-night.	" "	11-30 p.m.
23rd "	4 p. m.	31st "	4-15 p.m.
24th "	10-50 a. m.	1st September 1897	3-20 p.m.
25th "	12-10 p. m.	18th "	2 p.m.
26th "	3 a. m.	19th "	4-30 p.m.
" "	10-25 p. m.	20th "	1-30 p.m.
28th "	12-10 p. m.	27th "	10 p.m.
30th "	2-50 a. m.	3rd October 1897.	7-15 a.m.
" "	9-54 p. m.	5th "	10-45 a.m.
31st "	3-10 a. m.	" "	9-30 p.m.
1st August 1897.	6-31 p. m.	9th "	1-15 a.m.
2nd "	9 p. m.	11th "	5 a.m.
" "	9-57 p. m.	17th "	6 a.m.
3rd "	9-5 p. m.	22nd "	3-30 a.m.
" "	9-20 p. m.	" "	12 moon.
" "	11-22 p. m.	" "	3-30 p.m.
4th "	11 a. m.	" "	6 p.m.
6th "	3-30 a. m.	23rd "	2 p.m.
" "	11-25 a. m.	25th "	10-30 p.m.
7th "	6 a. m.	2nd Novr. 1897.	5 a.m.
13th "	7-35 p. m.	" "	11-21 a.m.
15th "	4-10 a. m.	" "	12-15 p.m.
16th "	7-26 a. m.	4th "	8-25 p.m.
17th "	11-48 p. m.	8th "	8-20 p.m.
18th "	12-10 a. m.	21st "	2-10 a.m.
" "	6-30 a. m.	29th "	2-45 p.m.
" "	11-30 p. m.	7th Dec. 1897.	1-32 p.m.

B.

Statement showing the names of buildings with their book value, and the valuation at which they can be held after the necessary repairs are done to them.

Name of buildings.	Year in which constructed.	Original cost.	Loss by depreciation.	Loss by earthquake.	Present valuation after being repaired.	REMARKS.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Ambari's Dharmasala ...	1889-90	10,264	800	1,900	8,764	
Ambari's school with out-houses	1877-85	14,925	1,500	1,500	11,925	
Bandmen's Bungalow with out-houses.	1894-96	11,478	.....	1,000	10,478	
..... Building	1887-96	16,575	1,000	6,000	9,576	
..... Substitution with out-houses.	1893-94	22,620	4,000	1,000	17,620	
Church	1872-73	1,686	400	200	1,086	
Cemetery	1876-77	625	150	100	375	
Corrugated iron shed for Bazar...	1882-83	25,189	2,500	1,000	21,689	
College Building with out-houses	1890-91	20,781	2,000	13,000	5,781	
Council and Civil Judges office with wings.	1877-78	1,00,110	5,000	75,110	20,000	
Civil Surgeon's Bungalow at Nil-kothi with out-houses.	1871-72	8,582	3,000	400	5,182	
Civil Surgeon's Bungalow in the Palace compound.	1896-97	8,499	500	800	7,199	
Dewan's house with out-houses ...	1894-95	30,012	500	2,000	27,512	
Dewan's office with out-houses ...	1872-82	55,775	5,000	38,000	12,775	
Dewany an'	1876-77	60,723	4,000	10,000	46,723	
Dispensary	1877-81	38,060	2,000	25,000	11,060	
Pucca mortuary	1894-95	828	.....	400	428	
Eurasian Girls School ...	1896-97	1,800	.....	200	1,600	
Furniture Godown	1884-91	3,761	500	2,961	800	
Skin Godown	1890-91	640	.....	140	500	
.....	1891-93	7,271	200	2,000	5,071	
.....	1884-85	8,186	500	4,000	3,686	
..... of Public grounds	1885-94	84,902	4,000	20,000	60,902	
.....	1878-89	45,238	3,000	20,000	22,238	
Sub-divisional Kutchery at Mekhigunj.	1886-87	13,809	500	3,000	10,309	
Ditto ditto M. Ch. Changa ...	1893-94	16,065	.....	8,000	8,065	
Ditto ditto Innkata ...	1896-97	18,116	.....	8,000	10,116	
Ditto ditto Fulhari ...	1891-97	3,138	.....	200	2,938	
Landsowne Hall ...	1894-96	67,639	.....	82,000	35,639	
Old Library Building with site	1872-76	9,451	8,000	3,000	3,451	
Native Guest house No. 1, Gopal Babu's house.	1882-83	6,102	1,000	2,000	3,102	
Native Guest house No. 2, Joy Babu's house.	.....	2,500	500	500	1,500	
Out-houses of Palace, Pucca Tennis Court.	1890-94	20,991	2,000	10,000	8,991	
Swimming Bath &c. ...	1880-81	52,776	4,000	15,000	33,776	
Hacket Court ...	1880-81	19,358	2,000	16,000	1,358	
House for the Steward ...	1892-93	2,510	.....	1,000	1,510	
House of Mr. Oakley ...	1892-93	8,657	.....	1,500	2,157	
Pucca servants' quarters	1895-96	4,849	.....	500	4,349	
Old Dargah Aye's house	Not known	8,000	2,000	4,000	2,000	
Raj Mata's house ...	Ditto	7,000	1,000	4,000	4,000	
Present Kitchen ...	Ditto	10,000	2,000	4,000	4,000	
Small Pucca house ...	Ditto	1,000	100	700	200	
Palace ...	1875-93	11,10,099	50,000	5,00,000	5,60,099	
Post-office with out-houses	1880-89	14,471	1,000	2,000	11,471	
Public Works Office ...	1882-83	8,230	2,000	1,000	5,230	
Store Godown ...	1872-73	2,983	1,000	800	883	
Quarters for the Accountant Genl.	1892-93	3,500	2,000	500	1,000	
Quarters for the Physician to Their Highness.	1891-92	14,328	1,000	2,000	11,328	
Quarters for the Minister to N.D. Church.	1892-93	1,400	.....	500	900	
Quarters for the Assistant Surgeon	1892-93	6,000	.....	3,000	3,000	
Raj Mata's Pucca house	1892-93	81,992	200	6,000	25,792	
Record Office ...	1875-76	62,728	5,000	39,000	18,728	
Sun-dial ...	1883-84	1,000	200	800	500	
Jenkins School ...	1891-91	55,852	2,000	22,000	31,852	
Nunty College ...	1890-91	2,977	100	500	2,377	
Vernacular School ...	1876-82	5,268	500	1,000	3,768	
Superintendent of State's Office	1876-82	32,678	2,900	10,000	20,678	
Settlement Nalb Ahlikar's Office	1887-88	2,500	500	500	1,500	
Stables and Coach Houses	1887-88	1,54,200	1,000	8,000	1,45,200	
Sudder Police Station and cook shed.	1877-95	7,700	500	1,000	6,200	
Superintendent of State's House	1892-93	61,165	.....	45,000	16,165	
Ditto Cook room & Verandah.	1874-76	858	.....	500	358	
Servant's Quarters ...	1884-85	3,751	500	1,000	1,751	
Temples in Town.						
Modnu Mohun Thakurbaries ...	1890-91	21,809	1,000	6,000	14,809	
Bhobany Thakurbaries ...	1889-90	1,063	200	500	363	
Nursing Thakurbari ...	1891-92	600	.....	300	300	
Dargah Aye's Thakurbari and 2 Shih barrie's.	1891-92	17,000	1,000	14,000	2,000	
Temples in Mafusall.						
Thakurbari at Fulhari ...	1892-93	446	.....	346	100	
..... Goshanidari	Not known	31,500	5,000	20,000	6,500	
..... Haripur ...	Ditto	1,400	300	500	600	
..... Bawalur ...	Ditto	3,000	1,000	4,000	2,000	
..... Sidhesbury	Ditto	6,000	1,000	2,000	3,000	
..... Dhalabury	Ditto	8,000	1,000	2,000	5,000	
Tent Godown ...	1890-91	6,237	300	2,000	3,937	
Magazine ...	1878-77	2,518	400	200	1,918	
	.....	24,36,788	1,28,450	10,85,037	12,44,281	

C.—List of Roads in the State damaged by the Earth-quake.

Names of Road.	Mileage.	Year in which completed.	Total cost.	Estimated loss by Earth-quake.	REMARKS.
<i>Communication.</i>			<i>Ra.</i>	<i>Ra.</i>	
Buxa Road	12	1895-96	80,000	18,000	
Bowtee Road	4½	1872-78	8,388	4,500	
Bolorampur Feeder Road ...	16½	1882-83	38,165	14,000	
Bangachitra Road	2	.....	2,000	1,000	
Cross road from Dinhat to Mekliganj	40	1878-79	40,285	21,000	
Ditto from Mathabkanga to Situl- khuchi.	12	1878-86	24,139	15,000	
Ditto from Patgram to Bhutan ...	15½	1881-91	47,069	20,000	
Kakina Road with branches ...	35	1878-94	81,916	16,000	
<i>Feeder Roads, 1st project.</i>					
Changrabanda 5½	16½	1882-84	30,316	10,000	
Dewangunge 3½					
Kashiabari 2½					
Manikgunge 5					
<i>Feeder Roads, 2nd project.</i>					
Balarampur 16½	25½	1882-83	69,558	20,000	
Durgapur 7					
Chowdhury hat 2					
Feeder Road from Emigration Road to Pathlakhon.	10	1895-96	7,509	3,000	
Feeder Road from Dewanhat to Bolorampur.	7	1895-96	4,014	1,500	
Feeder Road from Poondibary Sukun- dighy to Chokkutta.	18½	1895-96	1,756	1,000	
Feeder Road from Cooch Behar to Situlkuuchi.	16	1895-96	7,878	4,000	
Fallaoutta Road	6	1878-82	7,202	3,000	
Emigration Road west of Cooch Behar	46	1875-91	2,64,263	1,17,000	
Ditto east of Cooch Behar	19	1875-76	4,0360	15,000	
Goladpur Road	2	.....	1,000	500	
Janaki Tewary Road	11	1895-96	9,198	6,000	
Kalighat Railway Bank	2	1884-85	15,000	1,000	
Ketarhat Road	1½	1894-95	224	.....
Kalighat Road	2	1875-76	4,401	1,000	
Lowkooty Road	36	1878-83	61,715	33,000	
Poorbabag Road	12	1875-84	23,508	12,000	
Bungpur Road	24	1875-90	1,21,326	30,000	
Village Paths	163	1875-96	16,300	12,000	
Total ... ..	.....	.....	8,72,415	3,82,500	

D.—Statement showing the names of important Bridges damaged by the Earth-quake.

Name of Bridges.	Year in which constructed.	Nature of Bridge.	Span or Rft.	Total cost.	Estimated loss by Earthquake.	REMARKS.
<i>Emigration Road west of Cooch Behar.</i>						
4th mile puoca Bridge ...	1895-96	Puoca	55	3,800	2,500	
Haskhoa ditto ...	.....	Wooden	150	4,500	1,500	
Kalapance ditto ...	.....	Ditto	150	4,500	1,500	
Dolong ditto ...	.....	Iron	150	7,107	2,500	
19th mile ditto ...	1895-96	Puoca	20	1,800	800	
Bhanda Dhopa ditto ...	.....	Ditto	80	4,800	2,000	
Dhorla ditto ...	1878-79	Wooden	440	12,200	4,000	
Dhobolsooty ditto ...	.....	"	175	6,250	2,500	
Shanisajya ditto ...	1877-78	"	120	3,600	1,500	
Boalmay ditto ...	.....	"	150	4,500	2,500	
Ditto No. 2 ditto ...	.....	"	100	3,000	2,000	
45th mile ditto ...	.....	"	80	1,900	1,000	
Ditto ditto ...	.....	"	60	1,800	1,000	
<i>Buxa Road.</i>						
Ghorghoria Bridge ...	.....	Wooden	165	4,950	2,000	
Bowli ...	1895-96	Iron	150	4,500	500	
<i>Lowkooty Road.</i>						
Torna ...	.....	Iron	120	.....	3,500	Under construction
Ghorghoria ...	1878-79	Wooden	280	7,800	6,000	
Lehagir No. 2 ...	1879-90	"	120	3,600	200	
<i>Bolorampur Road.</i>						
Chakradara ...	1882-83	"	100	3,000	2,000	
Kalindi ...	.....	"	100	3,000	2,000	
<i>Bungpur Road.</i>						
Bhataguroe ...	.....	"	80	1,800	600	
Puoca Bridges ...	1895-96	Puoca	45	2,700	1,500	
<i>Kakina Road with branches.</i>						
Rashidanga Bridge ...	1882-83	Wooden	120	3,600	1,500	
Jotua No. 2 ...	1882-83	"	200	6,000	2,000	
Shetal ...	1885	Puoca	120	14,000	12,000	
<i>Dinkata Mektigunj Road.</i>						
Jhingsapony Bridge ...	.....	Wooden	80	1,800	800	
Bardeoer ...	.....	"	75	2,250	1,200	
Nakoswary ...	.....	"	60	1,800	600	
<i>Sitalkhuchee Road.</i>						
Khootamara ...	.....	"	100	3,000	1,000	
Boora Dhorla ...	.....	"	80	1,800	1,000	
<i>Cross Road from Patgram to Bhutan.</i>						
2 Iron Bridges ...	.....	Iron	316	13,600	4,000	
Wooden " ...	.....	Wooden	100	6,900	1,500	
Total ...	.....	.....	1,941	1,40,387	68,900	

THE ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE COOCH BEHAR STATE FOR THE YEAR 1897-98

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No. 1248.

From

D. R. LYALL, Esq., C.S.I.,

Superintendent of the Cooch Behar State,

COOCH BEHAR,

To

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJAH BHUP BHADUR

IN COUNCIL, COOCH BEHAR.

Dated, Cooch Behar, the 28th July 1898.

YOUR HIGHNESS,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Annual Reports of the Departments of the State under my control for the year 1897-98.

2. The post of the Superintendent of the State was filled by me throughout the year under report.

3. The table below shows the dates on which the reports of the different departments were received and the sections of this report which relate to each department.

1.	Criminal Justice,	Received 15th June	...	Paragraphs	4 to 27
2.	Police	...	" 17th "	...	" 28 " 56
3.	Jail and Lock-ups	...	4th "	...	" 57 " 76
4.	Department of Public Works,	28th "	...	"	77 " 107
5.	Education	...	...	"	108 " 146
	(a) Primary and Middle,	25th June			
	(b) Higher, Victoria College and Jenkins' School,	24th June			
	(c) Boarding Institution			Do.	
6.	Medical	...	25th June	...	" 147 " 158
7.	Political	...	4th July	...	" 159
8.	Military	...	Do.	...	" 160
9.	Press	...	Do.	...	" 161 " 164
10.	The Pheelkhana	...	Do.	...	" 165 " 166
11.	The State Library	...	11th June	...	" 167
12.	The Superintendent of State's office,	17th July		"	168

ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

4. *Change of the office.*—Babu Priya Nath Dutt, M.A.B.L., was Fouzduary Ahilkar throughout the year but was on privilege leave from the 21st of November 1897 to the 6th of February 1898, during which period Babu Narendra Nath Sen, B.L., Assistant Civil Judge, officiated for him. The names of the officers who held charge of the subordinate criminal posts, and the changes which took place are shewn in the following statement :—

Sub-division	Name of Naib Ahilkar.	Term employed.	Name of Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	Term employed.
Sudder ...	Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, B.L.	1st April 1897 to 8th February 1898.	Babu Pramatha Nath Chatterjee, M.A.B.L.*	1st March to 31st March 1898.
	Babu Raj Krishna Das.	9th February to 31st March 1898.		
Toofangunj	Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhury, B.L.	1st April 1897 to 6th February 1898.	Babu Bama Charan Neogi, B.L.	1st April to 6th February 1898.
	Bama Charan Neogi B.L.,	7th February to 31st March 1898.		
Dinhata...	Babu Hari Nath Basu, B.L.	1st April 1897 to 31st March 1898.	Babu Rajani Kanta Bhaumick, M.A. B.L.	1st to 7th April 1897, and from 14th May 1897 to 31st March 1898.
			Babu Surendra Nath Chackerbutty, M.A. B.L.	
Matha-phanga	Babu Ashutoosh Ghosh, B.L.	1st April to 30th May 1897 and from 30th June 1897 to 31st March 1898.	Babu Jagad Ballabh Biswas, M.A. B.L.	1st April 1897 to 30th May 1897, and 30th June 1897 to 31st March 1898
	Jagad Ballabh Biswas, M.A.B.L.	31st May to 29th June 1897.		
Mekligunj	Babu Padma Nath Das, B.L.	1st April 1897 to 31st March 1898.	Nil	Nil

* This officer was vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the 3rd class on the 6th February 1898 and tried Criminal cases from the 1st March 1898.

Municipal cases in the town of Cooch Behar were tried by Babu Mon Mohan Buxi. There was no change in the personnel of the officers during the year under report.

5. *Criminal Statistics.*—The number of cases instituted in the past three years is given in the following table:—

YEAR.			Offences.		Total.
			Cognisable.	Non-cognisable.	
1895-96	...	...	1,121	1,331	2,452
1896-97	...	...	1,265	1,364	2,629
1897-98	...	...	1,253	1,144	2,397

The decrease in cognizable cases is 12 only, and calls for no explanation. The decrease of 120 non-cognizable cases is attributed partly to the people

having less surplus money to spend on litigation owing to the high prices, but chiefly owing to the effect of the earthquake which seemed to paralyse the people and chain them to their homes ; so that, although the courts were open and ready to work within 4 days of the earthquake, the litigants refused to come to court, and even when they came, objected to enter the court house from fear of its collapse should another earthquake take place.

6. *Analysis of cognizable crime.*—STATEMENT A, PARTS I & III.

Class I.—The return shows a decrease of 3 cases under this class, the figures being 44 against 47 in the previous year. No less than 40 of these cases were under the heading of rioting. This is due to the occurrence of several cases of grain riots, and it was beyond the power of the Police to prevent most of these cases.

Class II.—109 cases were reported against 96 in the previous year, or an increase of 13 cases. The chief increase is under kidnapping, 24 cases against 18, and grievous hurt, 30 against 17. There were also 3 cases of culpable homicide against 2 in 1896-97. There were only 2 cases of murder against 7 in the previous year.

Class III.—There is a satisfactory decrease of 89 cases, the number being 343 against 432. The decrease is under lurking house trespass under which the number of cases has gone down from 401 to 299. Last year the number rose owing to the high prices of grain. In the year under report high prices ruled for 3 months only, and they affected crime for only 2 months and 12 days or up to the date of the earthquake. The figures of the year under this class are less than those of 1895-96 by 23 cases.

Class IV.—There is a decrease of 7 cases, the figures being 43 against 50. The fluctuation calls for no remark.

Class V.—The decrease under class III is to some extent counterbalanced by an increase of 59 cases, the number being 658 against 599. The increase is under theft where the figures went up from 371 to 472.

Class VI.—There were 56 cases against 41 showing an increase of 15 cases. There were 6 more cases under Vagrancy, 5 more under the Arms Act, 3 under the Gambling Act, and 6 under "other laws" balanced by small reduction under other headings, the largest being 7 cases under excise.

7. *Analysis of non-cognizable crime.*—STATEMENT B.

Class I.—The number of cases went down from 70 to 54. There were only 33 offences against public justice and 10 of false evidence against 48 and 17. There were slight increases under other headings.

Class II.—Is blank against one case last year.

Class III.—Shows 9 cases against 13 in 1896-97.

Class IV.—The number of cases has gone up from 510 to 575 or by 65. Cases of criminal force have increased from 319 to 380 or by 61, and there is also an increase of 6 hurt cases.

Class V.—There is a decrease of 60 cases, the total being 215 against 275. There is a decrease of 44 cases of mischief and 17 of criminal misappropriation.

Class VI.—The figures are 219 against 249 or a decrease of 30 cases, chiefly under intimidation, 23, and public and local nuisances, 7. The other fluctuations are small and balance each other.

Offences under special laws.—The number of cases has gone down from 146 to 128 or by 18 cases. The number of cases under the Cooch Behar Town Committee Act decreased from 70 to 48 or by 22 cases. The other fluctuations are petty and nearly balance each other.

8. *Number of persons brought to trial.*—The two following tables compare the results of trial as regards persons for the past two years. In the first totals are given, and in the second these totals are distributed between cognizable and non-cognizable cases.

Particulars.	1896-97	1897-98
Number of cognizable and non-cognizable cases reported	2,529	2,897
Number of persons brought to trial	1,402	1,839
Convicted	759	1,088
Released	579	785
Otherwise disposed of	2	2
Pending at the end of the year	62	64
Percentage of persons convicted to total number tried	56.64	58.47

Details.	1896-97.		1897-98.	
	Cognizable.	Non-cognizable.	Cognizable.	Non-cognizable.
Cases reported	1,265	1,264	1,253	1,144
Number of persons brought to trial	720	682	977	862
Convicted	406	353	598	440
Released	277	302	337	398
Otherwise disposed of	0	2	2	.....
Pending at the end of the year	37	25	40	24
Percentage of number convicted to total number tried	59.44	53.72	63.82	52.50

The number of persons brought to trial has increased notwithstanding the decrease in the number of cases. This is due partly to the fact that a large number of persons were sent up in some cases of theft of grain with riot, but it is also due partly to the decreased number of accused who are now summoned as witnesses. Bad habits die hard, and I regret that cases such as those described last year still recur though they are now much decreased. The percentage of convictions in Police cases has risen from 59.44 to 63.82, which is good, but the result is greatly due to the grain cases mentioned above. The percentage in non-cognizable cases has gone down from 53.72 to 52.50. This was to be expected owing to the restriction placed on the summoning of defendants as witnesses. The number of persons pending trial was not excessive. This will be dealt with hereafter.

9. *Cases not enquired into.*—The Police refused to enquire into 54 cases as against 49 in the previous year. The figures call for no remark.

10. *Abstract of heinous cases.*—One of the two cases of murder was reported as false. In the other case a man went to fetch his young wife from her home. She refused to go with him so he cut her throat. He was sentenced to transportation for life. One of the three cases of culpable homicide not amounting to murder was pending at the close of the year. The other two cases both arose from land disputes. One man was killed in each case and both ended in conviction, five persons being convicted in one case, and four in the other, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. One of the two cases of dacoity was reported as false. In the other the Police sent up 16 persons of whom the Fouzday Ahilkar discharged 5 and committed 11, who were pending trial at the end of the year, and have since been acquitted. The property taken in this case was valued at Rs. 1,455-9-6. None of the other cases are of public interest.

11. *Appeals.*—The number of appeals and their result are shown below :—

NAME OF OFFICER.	Total number of persons convicted.	Total number of appeals.	Order confirmed.	Appeal allowed.	Order modified.	Order reversed.	Pending.
Babu Priya Nath Dutt, Foundary Ahilkar ...	62	10	8	1	1	..	...
" Narendra Nath Sen, mag. ditto ditto. ...	17	6	3	1	2	...	...
" Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, Sudder Naib Ahilkar ...	160	7	4	1	2	...	...
" Raj Krishna Das, Sudder Offg. Naib Ahilkar ...	81	2	2	...	...	...	...
" Harendra Narain Chowdhuri, Naib Ahilkar, Toofangunj. ...	87	2	1	...	1	...	...
" Bama Charan Neogi, Addl. Naib Ahilkar, Toofangunj. ...	6	2	1	...	...	1	...
" Bama Charan Neogi, Sub Naib Ahilkar ditto ...	40	4	4	...	...	...	...
" Hari Nath Basu, Naib Ahilkar, Dinahata ...	119	12	10	1	...	1	...
" Rajani Kant Bhowmick, Sub-Naib Ahilkar, ditto ...	87	11	8	1	2	...	...
" Ashutosh Ghosh, Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhangs ...	197	17	11	1	2	3	...
" Jagad Ballabh Biswas, Sub-Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhangs ...	68	7	5	...	1	1	...
" Padma Nath Das, Naib Ahilkar, Makligunge ...	85	14	8	...	4	2	...
Total ...	957	94	65	6	15	8	...

Of the above 16 were heard by the Judge and the rest by the Foundary Ahilkar. There were few reversals, and the results are on the whole good. The percentage of appeals to persons convicted in appealable cases is almost the same as last year viz 9·8 against 9·7

12. *Distribution of work.*—The table below shows the distribution of work and the percentage of convictions before each officer.

NAMES OF OFFICERS.	No. of cases.	No. of persons under trial.	Convicted.	Acquitted or charged.	Otherwise disposed of.	Remaining pending trial at the close of the year.	Percentage of conviction by total number tried.	REMARKS.
SUDDER.								
Babu Jadub Chandra Chuckerbutty, Sessions Judge	15	49	20	18	...	11	52·63	
Babu Priya Nath Dutt, Foundary Ahilkar.	220	138	62	71	...	5	46·61	
Babu Narendra Nath Sen, offg. Foundary Ahilkar.	71	42	17	25	...	...	40·47	
" Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, Naib Ahilkar	384	268	160	108	...	...	59·70	
" Raj Krishna Das, Naib Ahilkar	84	46	31	12	...	3	72·09	
Babu Prannath Nath Chatterjee, Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	38	18	8	4	...	6	66·6	
Babu Monmohan Buxi, Honorary Magistrate	47	47	44	3	...	...	93·62	
SUB-DIVISION TOOFANGUNJ.								
Babu Harendra Narain Choudhury, Naib Ahilkar.	117	119	87	32	...	...	73·10	
Babu Bama Charan Neogi, Additional-Naib Ahilkar.	74	45	6	21	...	18	22·2	
" Bama Charan Neogi, Sub-Naib Ahilkar	110	94	40	54	...	...	42·50	
SUB-DIVISION DINAHATA—								
Babu Hari Nath Basu, Naib Ahilkar	301	184	119	65	...	...	64·67	
Babu Rajani Kant Bhowmick, Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	155	120	87	32	...	1	73·10	
Babu Harendra Nath Chuckerbutty, Offg. Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	3	3	1	2	...	...	33·3	
SUB-DIVISION MATHABHANGA—								
Babu Ashutosh Ghosh, Naib Ahilkar	267	291	195	83	2	11	66·64	
Babu Jagad Ballabh Biswas, offg. Naib Ahilkar.	29	16	7	9	...	...	43·75	
Babu Jagad Ballabh Biswas, Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	154	191	68	121	...	2	35·56	
SUB-DIVISION MAKILGUNGE—								
Babu Padma Nath Das, Naib Ahilkar	399	168	86	75	...	7	53·41	
Total ...	2,496	1,839	1,038	735	2	64	56·47	

* This total includes 49 cases pending from the previous year.

13. *Results of Sessions cases.*—The percentage of convictions was higher than in the previous year being 52·63 against 37·03. It is unfair to judge an officer's work by the result of so small a number of cases as are ordinarily committed by a single officer. Since the close of the year the 11 persons shown as pending have been acquitted which will reduce the percentage to 40·8. The results are shown in the following table :—

Names of Committing Officers.	Number of cases.	No. of persons committed.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of persons acquitted.	Observations disposed of.	Persons pending.	Percentage of convictions.
Babu Priya Nath Dutt, Foudary Ahilkar ...	2	12	.....	1	.....	11	.....
" Narendra Nath Sen, Offg. Foudary Ahilkar ...	1	5	5	.....	.....	.....	100
" Harendra Narain Choudhuri, Naib Ahilkar, Toofangunj	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
" Hari Nath Bose, Naib Ahilkar, Dinbata ...	2	6	6	.....	.....	.....	100
" Ashutosh Ghose, Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhanga ...	3	6	1	5	.....	.....	16·6
" Padma Nath Das, Naib Ahilkar, Mekligunj ...	6	19	8	11	.....	.....	42·10
Total.....	15*	49	20	18	.....	11	52·63

* This includes one pending from the previous year.

14. *Period of detention of Prisoners.*—The usual table is given below :—

NAME OF OFFICER.	Longest period of detention.	Shortest period of detention.	Average period of detention.	REMARKS.
SUDDER.	days.	days.	days.	
Babu Jadub Chandra Chuckerbutty, Sessions Judge	38	1	25·97	
" Priya Nath Dutt, Foudary Ahilkar ...	29	1	8·14	
" Narendra Nath Sen, offg. Foudary Ahilkar ...	30	1	7·8	
" Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, Sudder Naib Ahilkar	27	1	9·22	
" Raj Krishna Das, Sudder Naib Ahilkar ...	21	7	10·57	
" Pramatha Nath Chatterjee, Sudder Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	6	.....	6	
TOOFANGUNJ.				
" Harendra Narayan Choudhuri, Naib Ahilkar...	109	1	30·30	
" Bama Charan Neogi, Additional Naib Ahilkar.	79	1	22·91	
" Bama Charan Neogi, Sub-Naib Ahilkar ...	15	3	13·33	
DINBATA.				
" Hari Nath Bose, Naib Ahilkar ...	46	1	11·43	
" Rajani Kant Bhowmic, Sub-Naib Ahilkar ...	36	1	10·65	
MATLABHANGA.				
" Ashutosh Ghosh, Naib Ahilkar ...	29	1	6·32	
" Jagad Ballabh Biswas, Sub-Naib Ahilkar ...	44	1	19·77	
MEKLIUNJ.				
" Padma Nath Das, Naib Ahilkar ...	77	1	12·33	

The greatest delay took place in the Toofangunj Sub-division; steps have recently been taken to strengthen the staff of that Sub-division. There is a considerable amount of unavoidable delay when persons residing in British territory are cited as witnesses, and for such delay officers are not responsible.

15. Miscellaneous Proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.—
The table below shows these cases :—

Nature of case	No. of cases.	Dismissed.	Decreed or order passed against the accused.	Compromised.	Struck off	Pending.
Maintenance ...	12 *	6	3	1	2	.....
Right of way ...	36 †	12	11	2	7	4
Security to keep the peace 106 107, 108, & 110. C. P. C.	22	8	8	1	.....	5

* Including 4 pending from last year.

† Do. 5 Do. from last year.

Maintenance cases were more successful than in the previous year, but in only 3 cases were decrees obtained. Under the other headings results are better. Rs. 90 were awarded as compensation under section 250 C. P. C. against Rs. 65 last year.

16. Accidental deaths.—But for the 8 deaths due to the earthquake the total would have been the same as last year. The actual figures are 160 against 152 divided as shown below :—

Suicides ...	...	...	...	6
Drowning ...	...	...	...	71
Snake-bite ...	...	...	...	48
Wild beasts ...	...	...	...	5
Fall of buildings	...	...	...	8
Fire ...	...	...	...	4
All other causes	...	...	...	18

160

17. Realisation of fines.—The results of the last two years are shown, below :—

YEAR.	Balance of the previous year.	Imposed during the year.	Total amount to be realised.	Realised during the year.	Remitted or written off.	Balance at the end of the year.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1896-97 ...	811 7 9	4,802 1 0	5,613 8 9	4,889 11 9	117 0 0	806 18 0
1897-98 ...	806 18 0	4,378 9 0	5,185 6 0	4,196 4 6	35 4 0	953 18 6

The percentage of realization of new fines fell from 97.66 to 95.6. The amount of remission is small as the report for remission was received after the close of the year.

18. Amount of fees realized.—The amount realized in each Sub-division is shown below :—

Status of Court.				Stamps.	Court-fees.	Total
				Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Session Criminal Courts	...	...	...	430 8 2	608 4 0	1,038 7 2
Teaching ...	...	...	...	225 0 0	185 4 0	390 4 0
District ...	...	...	...	441 8 0	305 12 0	737 4 0
Maddur ...	...	...	...	525 2 6	403 12 0	927 14 6
Maddur ...	...	...	...	841 0 0	328 4 0	1,169 4 0

The decrease in non-cognizable cases accounts for the decrease of Rs 277-18. There is a decrease in all the Sub-divisions except Toofangunj and Mathabhanga.

19. *Detention of witnesses.*—The following table shows the detention of witnesses :—

Name and designation of Magistrate.	Total No. of witnesses who appeared during the year.	No. of witnesses examined.	No. of witnesses discharged without examination.	No. of witnesses not examined and finally discharged.	Detention of witnesses entered in columns 2 & 4 for						REMARKS
					One day.	Two days.	Three days.	Four days.	Five to seven days.	Six to fifteen days.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
SUDDER.											
Babu Priya Nath Dutt, Foudary Ahilkar.	547	536	11	...	485	61	1	...	...	...
Babu Narendra Nath Sen, Offg. Foudary Ahilkar.	154	130	24	...	120	26	8	...	...	...
Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, Naib Ahilkar.	301	301	...	...	288	9	9	...	...	...
Babu Raj Krishna Das, Naib Ahilkar	158	158	...	...	148	2	8	...	...	...
Babu Pramatha Nath Chatterjee, Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	57	57	...	...	57	...	...	...	...	...
Babu Mon Mohun Buxi, Honorary Magistrate.	11	11	...	...	8	...	8	...	...	...
TOTAL.	1,228	1,193	35	...	1,101	98	29	...	...	...
TOOFANGUNJ.											
Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhury Naib Ahilkar.	250	204	46	...	188	78	17	17	...	...
Babu Bama Charan Neogi, Additional Naib Ahilkar.	258	195	14	49	148	20	14	27	...	...
Babu Bama Charan Neogi, Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	273	236	37	...	186	63	27	32	13	...	
TOTAL.	781	635	97	49	424	161	58	76	13	...	
DINHATA.											
Babu Hari Nath Bose, Naib Ahilkar	680	538	142	...	429	167	50	26	8	...	
Babu Surendra Nath Chuckerbutty Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	35	31	4	...	33	2	...	...	...	...
Babu Rajani Kanta Bhowmick, Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	559	428	136	...	405	117	32	10	5	...	
TOTAL	1,274	992	282	...	867	286	72	36	13	...	
MATHABHANGA.											
Babu Ashutosh Ghosh, Naib Ahilkar.	725	669	56	...	548	57	6	8	11	...	
Babu Jagad Ballabh Biswas, Sub-Naib Ahilkar.	541	505	36	...	433	74	34	...	...	...
TOTAL	1,266	1,174	92	...	1,081	131	40	8	11	...	
MEKLIGUNJ.											
Babu Padma Nath Das, Naib Ahilkar.	766	565	172	29	336	201	134	50	34	2	
GRAND TOTAL	5,815	4,559	678	78	3,799	877	323	165	71	2	

The results are necessarily worse than last year as only one register has been maintained. There was practically no detention in the Sudder Sub-division and not much in Mathabhanga, but the other three Sub-Divisions all show badly. In Dinahata only 68 per cent of the witnesses were discharged the first day; in Toofangunj 58 per cent, and in Mekligunj only 44 per cent. I have also had to remark on carelessly prepared returns and the matter has been brought to the notice of the Foudary Ahilkar.

20. *Miscellaneous work.*—The usual return of this work is shown below:—

Names of Courts.				No. of petitions received.	No. of processes of all kinds issued.	No. of reports heard.	No. of <i>Robouras</i> received.	No. of bail-bonds executed.	No. of recognizances.	No. of <i>Robouras</i> issued.
Sudder Foudary Court	...	...	...	636	2,566	236	231	90	309	10
Toofangunge Court	...	...	...	290	2,906	125	42	66	197	31
Dinhata Court	...	...	...	640	2,574	185	73	108	318	50
Mathabhanga Court	...	...	...	463	2,902	355	91	78	194	140
Mekligunj Court	...	...	...	286	1,691	222	60	34	114	24
Total	...	...	...	2,315	12,789	1,873	586	280	932	255

The number of processes issued in Toofangunj is out of all proportion to the number of cases, and explanation has been called for. With the reduction in the number of cases there is necessarily a corresponding reduction in the number of processes. The accused in the grain riots were generally kept in *Hajat*, so the number of bail bonds and recognizances has not increased with the increased number of persons tried.

21. *Summary cases for recovery of wives*—The number of petitions went down from 83 to 50. In 13 cases the wives were made over to their husbands, 28 cases were struck off and 7 were referred to the Civil Court as the woman denied the marriage. The remaining 2 cases were pending.

22. *Village Chowkidars.*—The number in each Sub-division at the close of the year was as follows:—

Sub-division.	Chowkidars.
Sudder	319
Toofangunj	311
Dinhata	379
Mathabhanga	454
Mekligunj	216
Total	1,579

The number was 1587 last year. The reduction in the two last named Sub-divisions is owing to Mathabhanga and Haldibari having been created towns.

The number of the petitions for realization of pay presented by Chowkidars fell from 1897 to 1683; a substantial decrease of 214 petitions. The decrease is due to the better condition of the people during the last 9 months of the year. The larger realizations are due to the same cause.

Sub-division.	Sum realized in 1896-97.	Sum realized in 1897-98.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Sudder	1,870 14 7	2,198 4 9
Toofangunj	649 10 9	771 12 6
Dinhata	1,174 3 6	847 2 3
Mathabhanga	1,850 12 9	1,966 7 3
Mekligunj	1,008 8 6	1,107 9 0
Total	6,549 2 1	6,891 8 9

The whole of the amount realized was made over to the Choukidars within the year except Re- 867-9 which remained undisbursed. The financial working of the fund is shown below:—

Names of Sub-divisions.	Total amount of Annual fund division.	Balance of the previous year.	Total.	Amount realized during the year.	Amount realized on the 31st March.	Amount of sum realized.	Amount of year's fund realized.	Miscellaneous receipts.	Total of column 1, 7, 8 & 9.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sudder	1,100 2 6	806 12 0	1,916 12 6	867 6 3	686 9 3	176 1 0	165 2 0	10 0 0	1,908 9 3
Toofangunj	786 10 5	283 7 9	1,019 2 3	588 4 0	480 14 2	30 24 0	75 12 6	....	684 16 6
Dinhata	1,861 6 0	861 2 2	2,922 10 9	582 12 0	1,639 12 9	16 12 0	70 4 0	....	606 12 0
Mathabhangha ..	1,744 11 0	439 16 9	2,177 10 9	1,353 8 5	244 2 6	217 14 0	486 18 6	....	2,435 2 9
Makligunj	828 2 6	741 2 0	1,479 11 6	749 5 0	820 6 6	99 6 0	125 2 9	1 4 0	965 2 9
Total	5,779 2 6	2,336 0 2	8,615 2 8	4,711 4 6	3,908 14 2	520 15 0	843 4 9	11 4 0	8,165 12 3

* Out of these amounts Re-109-1-9 are irrecoverable.

The results in Dinhata are very bad and in Mathabhangha very good. The Sub-divisional officer of Dinhata has been asked to explain his failure to work the Act. The number of Punchayets working during the year was 1993.

The Fouzdary Ahilkar reports that the Act, which has now been in force for nearly 5 years, has on the whole worked well. The maximum and minimum pay of the Choukidars was the same as last year viz Re- 6 and Re-4-4.

23. *Cattle Pounds.*—The number of Pounds was increased by 3 during the last year bringing the total to 68. The receipts were Rs 6,901-2 against Rs 7,399-8-9 and the cost of maintenance was Rs 449-10-1 leaving a net profit of Rs. 6,451-7-11 against Rs 6,897-5-9 or a decrease Rs 445-13-10. The Fouzdary Ahilkar attributes the decrease to the fact that when the pounds were let out on farm the condition of the people was bad.

24. *Crops and condition and health of the people.*—The year under report opened with very gloomy prospects. The stocks of food-grain in the State were nearly exhausted, and the bulk of the people had to depend on imported rice. Prices had ranged so high for so long a period that the resources of certain classes of the people were exhausted, viz. the landless classes, beggars, widows, and those cultivators who had small holdings and large families. Your Highness therefore determined to give State and charitable relief to the above classes and a grant of Re- 15,000 was sanctioned for this purpose. A further sum of Rs 6,820 was subscribed and relief centres opened all over the State. The arrangements were most ably made by the Fouzdary Ahilkar, and it was decided that the dole should consist of 1½ pawa of rice and one pice in cash for purchase of salt and condiments. Relief began on the 16th of May and was closed on the 14th of June, partly on account of the earth-quake, but mainly because by that date it was certain that the early rice crop would be far above the average, and would remove all danger of famine. It began to be reaped just about the date of the earth-quake, the 12th of June.

The average daily number of persons relieved was 5,930 and the amount expended was Rs. 17,099. A full report has been submitted. Test works were also opened but the people would not go to them. The early rice crop was followed by a bumper crop of winter rice, the result of a full and well distributed rainfall, and in a wonderfully short time all trace of distress or famine disappeared. The land revenue collections were not affected, and the people showed that they were as a whole well able to bear the strain of the previous year. The year was a healthy one on the whole, but this subject will be dealt with more fully in the medical part of the report.

25. *The earth-quake.*—This calamity has been fully reported on separately but a report of the year 1897-98, would be incomplete without some mention of it. It took place on the 12th June about 5 p.m. that being the last day of *Mohurrum*. Happily it was a fine day and most of the people were out in the open air, and to this may be attributed the small loss of life, only 8 persons being killed in the town of Cooch Behar and none elsewhere. The damage done to roads, wells, and public and private buildings was enormous, but happily the agricultural resources of the people and of the State suffered no damage, or so little as to call for no notice. Nearly all the public works and buildings completed during Your Highness' minority, or since Your accession to power have been damaged, and in most cases the damage is very serious. In all, the loss to State-property is not less than Rs. 16½ lacs within the State as already reported or nearly 18 lacs if other than State property is included. Its effect on crime was curious, and for a time there was practically no crime and no complaints.

26. *Tour.*—The Fouzdary Ahilkar was out for 37 days and Babu Narendra Nath Sen who acted for him put in 14 days or 51 days in all. The Fouzdary Ahilkar was obliged to take leave owing to ill health during the touring season, and the movements of the Offg. Fouzdary Ahilkar were interfered with by the uncertainty of the date of Your Highness' return to Cooch Behar after the Tirah Expedition. The Mathabhanga Sub-division was inspected by the Offg. Fouzdary Ahilkar and the other Sub-divisions by the Fouzdary Ahilkar. Among the Sub-divisional officers, the Naib Ahilkar of Dinhatra was out for 72 days or 12 days over the prescribed period. His Sub-Naib Ahilkars also were out for 37 days. The Naib Ahilkar of Mathabhanga was on tour for 60 days and his Sub-Naib Ahilkar for 36 days. The Naib Ahilkar of Mekligunj was short of his time by only 2 days. These 3 Sub-divisions were therefore fully inspected. In Toofangunj the Naib Ahilkar put in only 16 days and the Sub-Naib Ahilkar 22. Babu Harendra Narain Choudhary had also Settlement work to do, and when relieved by Babu Bama Charan Neogi that officer failed to cope with the work and was only able to go out for 2 days. As before remarked it has been determined to post another officer to this Sub-division for at least 6 months and improvement may be expected in the current year.

27. *Conduct of Officers.*—The Fouzdary Ahilkar reports as follows :—

Babu Raj Krishna Das, L.C.E., Naib Ahilkar, is a painstaking officer. His judgments are generally sound. Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhuri, B.L., Naib Ahilkar, is a good executive officer. Babus Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, and Ashutosh Ghose, B.L., continued to discharge their duties satisfactorily; Naib Ahilkar Babu Padma Nath Das, B.L., and Sub-Naib Ahilkar Babu Bama Churan Neogi, B.L., worked hard, Sub-Naib Ahilkars Babus Jagad Ballabh Biswas and Rajani Kant Bhowmic are intelligent officers of promise. Babu Mon Mohan Buxi, continued to render me help in disposing of cases under Town Committee Act.

I agree as regards most of the above. During the last year Babu Harendra Narain Choudhuri has not done good criminal work, probably owing to his being occupied in Settlement work. Babu Padma Nath Das is in some respects not up to the charge of a Sub-division, and Babu Bama Charan Neogi has failed to show his fitness for a similar charge while acting as Naib Ahilkar of Toofangunge. I agree with the Fouzdary Ahilkar as regards the other officers named.

POLICE.

28. *Charge.*—Kumar Gojendra Narayan (Junior) was Superintendent of Police throughout the year.

29. *Sanctioned strength and cost of the Police.*—The sanctioned strength and cost of the Police is shown below:—

Designation.	Sanctioned allotment.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
1 Superintendent of Police	6,000	0	0
3 Inspectors	4,080	0	0
10 Sub-Inspectors	6,480	0	0
31 Head Constables	5,760	0	0
284 Constables	25,644	0	0
Good Conduct Allowance	336	0	0
Superintendent's Office establishment	1,594	0	0
Contingencies	988	0	0
Miscellaneous	1,778	0	0
Travelling allowances	1,200	0	0
Uniform and accoutrements	2,198	0	0
Thannah Dak establishment	642	0	0
Repairs to, and construction of, Police buildings	860	0	0
Total	57,546	0	0

In addition to the above sum a further grant of Rs 3 per man to all who drew Rs. 10 and under, was given for the three months during which the price of food was at its highest. This grant amounted to Rs. 788 and the total grant was therefore Rs. 58,333. Of this sum Rs. 54,190-8-8 only were expended, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,142-7-2 unexpended on account of casualties and other savings.

The cost of the Police employed on the prevention and detection of crime is reported by the Superintendent as approximately Rs. 15,750 or 5·2 pies per head of population. The decrease is due to the fact that fewer men were employed on these duties. From the current year I trust these fluctuations will not occur as the distribution of the force has been revised. The proportion of Police employed on the above duties to area and population is as follows:—

No. of Police as shown in Statement II.	Area of the State in square miles.	Population of the State.	Proportion of Police to area in square miles.	Proportion of Police to population.
107	1307	5,78,868	1 to 12·31	1 to 5409·9

The Station Police were again not kept up to strength.

30. *Railway Police.*—The cost of the Railway Police Rs. 534 a year is not included in the above having been paid up to date by the Railway. A Constable from the State Police is also deputed to each of the two terminal stations of Gitaldah and Torsa to watch bad characters.

31. *Reorganization of the Police.*—In the course of the year a scheme for the reorganization of the Police on the lines adopted in Bengal was submitted to Your Highness in Council after consulting the Fouzdary Ahlikar and the Superintendent of Police. The scheme included the reduction of investigating centres, the investigation of all cases (so far as possible) by Sub-Inspectors, and the strengthening of the Reserve. The proposals were sanctioned with slight alterations and the scheme has been introduced in full from the 1st April, but the Out-posts of Kholta, Bhaishkuchi, Sitai, Gitaldah and Moranga were abolished with effect from the 1st of March as part of the scheme. There are now in the State 7 investigating centres viz: 6 Police Stations, and one independent Out-post, or an average of one centre to 186·7 square miles and to 82,695 persons. During the

year under report and before the redistribution the sanctioned number of Police officers and men to area was 1 to every 4 square miles and one to 1756 persons. The latest figures I have for Bengal (1896) are 1 to 6.0 square miles and 1 to 2928 of population. The Cooh Behar Police was therefore more numerous as compared with Bengal.

22. *Crime*.—The introduction of new forms necessarily makes comparison with the figures of the previous year more difficult and some of the alterations affect the results considerably. As stated in the first part of this report there were 1253 cognizable cases reported during the year, and 21 were pending from the previous year, thus making 1274 cognizable cases to be dealt with. The Police enquired into 781 of these cases, *suo motu* (774 in column 8 and 7 in column 10 of statement A III), and they also enquired into 149 cases by order of the Magistrate. The present statements do not show the result of these last cases, so I am unable to compare the result of all cases investigated by the Police as was done last year and can only show accurately the result of cases reported to the Police direct. The Superintendent of Police gives details of 122 out of the 149 cases sent for report by the Magistrate.

A form	...	...	...	...	24
B & C true	...	...	...	...	25
B & C false	...	...	...	...	71
Pending	...	...	...	...	2

122

In the remaining cases no forms were submitted. The number of cases taken up by the Police direct in the 2 years is 749 in 1896-97, and 781 in the year under report. The increase is due chiefly to the grain riot cases. In 1896-97 the Magistrate ordered Police enquiry in 114 cases making up the 863 cases the results of which were reported last year. In the year under report the Magistrate ordered enquiry by the Police in 149 cases so that the Police enquired into 930 cases or 67 more than in the previous year. The result of the cases taken up by the Police *suo motu* is as follows:—

A form	...	257	(21 of these were declared false.)
B & C true	...	847	
B & C false	...	125	
Refused enquiry	...	54	
Taken up otherwise than on report	...	7	

790

This total includes 21 cases pending from the previous year and excludes 12 pending cases. The percentage of success shown in column 24 of statement A, part III as regards cases is 79.76 and in column 17 of statement A, part IV, as regards persons is 76.7. These percentages cannot be compared with the previous years' results as they are obtained in a different way. The details of crime have been given under the previous chapter of this report, and I have only here to add that the Superintendent of Police considers the decrease in burglaries to be due to increased vigilance on the part of the Police and improved working of the Chowkidars.

23. *Proportion of Police to Population and Crime*.—The following table shows the above but only includes cases in which the Police were employed, viz. 930 cases as shown above and 21 cases of the previous year.

Police.	Population.	No. of cases in which the Police were employed.	Proportion of Police to population.	Proportion of Police to crime.	Proportion of crime to population.
107	5,78,868	951	1 to 5409.9	1 to 8.8	1 to 608.6

The details of crime to population and area are worked out for the Sub-divisions in the table below:—

	Names of Sub-divisions.				
	Sudder	Tootlangunj	Dinhata	Mathabhang.	Mekligunj
Area in square miles	308	191	269	345	194
Population	1,29,243	78,106	1,46,824	1,43,384	85,761
Crime cognizable	239	127	148	213	224
Proportion of crime cognizable to population.	1 to 540.7	1 to 575.6	1 to 922.05	1 to 675.7	1 to 383.6
Proportion of crime to area.	1 to 1.6	1 to 1.4	1 to 1.8	1 to 1.6	1 to 0.8

From the above it appears there is most crime in Mekligunj and least in Dinhata.

24. *Property Stolen and recovered.*—The following table shows the amount of property stolen and recovered in the past two years:—

1896-97.			1897-98.		
Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Percentage of recovery.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Percentage of recovery.
15,612 0 0	5,378 0 0	34.4	16,781 0 0	2,985 0 0	17.7

The result is very poor but the Superintendent points out that nearly Rs. 5,000 worth of *dhan* was stolen in the grain riots and only Rs. 21 worth was recovered it being unidentifiable. This is true, but even apart from this, the result is poor. The pending dacoity case is not entered on either side.

35. *Percentage of persons convicted in cognizable cases.*—This has already been given in paragraph 8 as regards cognizable cases generally. The result in Police cases alone as shown in statement A. part IV is given but the figures cannot be compared with those of last year as they are compiled on different principles.

No. acquitted	...	...	...	...	148
No. convicted	...	...	...	...	487
Percentage of conviction	...	...	...	...	76.7

36. *Remands in Police cases.*—The greatest number of remands (9) took place in the case shown in paragraph 14 as having lasted 79 days before Babu Bama Charan Neogi, and there were 6 remands each in the cases shown as longest pending against Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhury (109 days) and Babu Rajani Kant Bhowmick (36 days.) There were also 6 remands in a case which was pending for 68 days before Babu Padma Nath Das. As a rule remands are not excessive, but I have noticed some cases in which the Police applied for, and the Magistrate granted, unnecessary remands. A Magistrate is not bound to grant all such applications.

37. *Vagrancy and bad Characters.*—There were 7 cases instituted against only 1 in the previous year, and convictions were obtained in 5 cases. The Police have certainly shown more activity in this respect.

38. *Reconvictions.*—The number has gone down from 17 to 11. I have no reason to doubt that proper attention has been paid to this point.

39. *Escapes and recaptures.*—There were 3 escapes. One from Police custody and 2 from Jails. All were recaptured and two were convicted. The third escaped from the Civil Jail.

40. *Absconders.*—Two offenders absconded during the year bringing the total up to 9.

41. *Fairs.*—The Police were posted as usual to the 7 fairs which take place in the State. Nothing worthy of record took place at these fairs.

42. *Escort of Treasure and Prisoners.*—The escort duties of the past year were lighter as regards treasure, and heavier as regards prisoners as shown below:—

Year.	Government Bengal treasure	State treasure.	Prisoners
1896-97	... 4,84,500	9,67,000	608
1897-98	... 5,60,000	9,25,593	725

43. *Conduct of the Police.*—There was no case of torture during the year. At the close of the year 55 men wore good conduct stripes against 51 in the previous year. Of these 24 held 3 or more stripes and drew the allowance, 7 held two, and 24 held one stripe. There is again a decrease in the number of punishments as shown in the table below. There were 3 more cases of conviction under the Penal Code, but the Departmental punishments show a substantial decrease of 17 cases. Rewards used to be given from the grant for Detective Police which was withdrawn last year, hence there were only 2 rewards given, one by the Jail Department and the second under the Excise Act.

	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	
	Judicially.	Judicially.	Departmentally.	Departmentally.	Reward.	Reward.	Remarks.
	Penal Code.	Act V.	Penal Code.	Act V.	Fined, suspended &c.	Fined, suspended &c.	
Inspectors
Sub-Inspectors	8	7	...
Head-constable	1	...	18	16	...
Constable	2	5	69	11	30
						7	7
							1
							Excise Act.

44. *Health of the Force.*—There were 5 deaths against 6 in the previous year—but the daily average of sick in Hospital went up from 6·8 to 8·2. The percentage of daily sick to strength was 2·4. This will be more fully noted on in dealing with the Medical report.

45. *Drill and Target practice.*—The Superintendent reports that the men were regularly drilled during the year. 40 went through the course of blank firing, 21 through ball firing, and 10 through buck shot practice. The Superintendent asks for rewards for the best shots. He should come up separately for this.

46. *Retirements on Pension.*—One Head-constable and 4 constables, or 5 in all retired during the year, against one Head-constable and 11 constables in the previous year.

47. *Race, Religion and caste.*—There is no change to report. The bulk of the officers are Hindu Bengalees, only 13 being Mahomedans. The men too are chiefly Hindus, only 73 being Mahomedans, but there are more upcountry men among the Hindu constables.

48. *Municipal Police.*—The Cooch Behar Town force remained as before, viz. 1 Jemadar, on Rs. 10 and 27 Chowkidars on Rs. 7 each. The total cost was Rs. 2,328. Five Chowkidars were also entertained during the year under the Town Act in the newly established towns of Haldibari and Mathabhanga.

49. *Street Lamps.*—There was no change in the number of lamps (75) in Cooch Behar during the year. The town spent Rs. 1,068 on lighting during the year.

50. *Public Health.*—This was on the whole good but there was a severe cholera epidemic in the town of Cooch Behar in September and October. The deaths from cholera of the last 2 years are shown as given by the Superintendent of

Police There was no death in Mathabhanga where in the previous year the mortality had been greatest.

				1896-97.	1897-98.
Sudder	...	...	...	162	482
Dinhata	...	..	...	30	116
Mathabhanga	...	...	...	249	NIL.
Toofangunj	...	...	...	34	141
Makligunj	...	...	...	67	24

51. *Rural Police.*—This subject has been partly dealt with in paragraph. 32 of this report. Here their Police work only is noticed. The Superintendent of Police writes as follows :—

"The Chowkidars have on the whole done good work during the year, for which they have been rewarded. The system of rewarding the Chowkidars in case of good attendance and punishing them otherwise which I had introduced about 8 years ago has had a great effect in improving their attendance and consequently the Police receive reports regularly of crime &c. now a days."

I agree with the above. The Rural Police are generally fairly intelligent and give good information to the Police. The Superintendent of Police is, I think, justified in attributing the decrease of serious crime against property to the improved information given by the Rural Police. Their average pay was Re- 61.8 per man so that they are well paid and they earned Re- 578 as rewards for regular attendance and Re- 65 for good work, or Re- 633 in all, as against Re- 305, Re- 134 and Re- 439 last year.

52. *Dak Establishment.*—The line to Toofangunj (Barokodali) was converted into an Imperial line on the 1st of August 1897, and that to Goshanimari on the 1st of November. With the abolition of the Out-posts on the 1st of March the State necessity for the maintenance of most of the lines ceased, and negotiations are pending with the postal Department for taking up these lines.

53. *Administration of the Arms Act.*—147 Licenses were issued against 162 in the previous year, a reduction of 15. 11 guns were seized against 5 in the previous year.

54. *Inspection.*—The Fouzdary Ahilkar inspected every station and all the Out-posts except two. The Superintendent of Police inspected every station three times, except Haldibari which he visited twice, and Mathabhanga four times. Inspectors, generally did sufficient inspection but the Fulbari Station was only twice inspected. In addition to inspection by the regular inspecting officers the Judge inspected one Station and one Out-post, and I inspected two stations.

55. *Anthropometry.*—Six unidentified prisoners were measured ; 8 anthropometrically and 3 by finger prints. One Barwar was identified by this means and previous convictions were proved. The rest are so far unidentified. The system of identification by finger prints is now in full working in the State.

56. *General working of the Police and remarks on officers.*—There is no doubt that the Police as a body are not strong in detective ability. The Superintendent of Police mentions only two executive officers.—Inspector Srikrishna Roy and Reserve Sub-Inspector Hari Bandhu Bhattacharjee, the latter principally in connection with his work on the Fire Brigade. It is true there is little crime, but there is a general want of spirit and go. Cases are dawdled over, and far too much investigation work has been done by Head Constables. The proposals referred to in paragraph 57 of last year's report and in 81 of this have been sanctioned with effect partially from 1st March, and partially from 1st April, and it will now be the rule that all cases shall be investigated by Sub-Inspectors. So far sickness among the officers has prevented the scheme being fully carried out, and the effects of its working remains to be seen in the course of the current year. The Superintendent of Police has worked well, and has managed his men with far less friction than formerly.

JAIL AND LOOK-UPS.

57. *Charge of the Jail.*—Babu Priya Nath Dutt, Foudary Ahilkar was in charge of the Jail throughout the year, except from the 21st of November 1897 to the 6th of February 1898, when charge was held by Babu Narendra Nath Sen, Offg. Foudary Ahilkar.

58. *Jail buildings.*—All the pucca buildings in the Jail together with the walls, and the sentry boxes on the walls suffered severely from the earth-quake, the total damage done being estimated by the Superintendent of Works at Rs. 20,000.

The north wall suffered most being laid flat for the greater part of its length. A bamboo palisade was erected in its place. During the year, the office and guard rooms were repaired. The rest will be repaired as funds can be spared.

The cutcha buildings did not suffer from the earth-quake and were kept in good repair. With a view to the reduction of the Police guard, the Hajat and Hospital wards were removed in the course of the year from the north to the south of the tank.

59. *Jail population of all classes.*—The admissions were 497 against 349 in 1896-97. The details of the two years are as follow:—

		1896-97	1897-98.
Civil prisoners ...	...	34	30
Lunatics ...	...	9	3
Undertrial prisoners ...	...	113	216
Convicted prisoners ...	...	193	248
		<hr/> 349	<hr/> 497

In spite of this large increase in admissions the average daily Jail population decreased from 92.52 to 90.14. This is due to the fact that a large number of prisoners were sent up for trial at the Sudder on account of grain riots which took place in Mathabhangra, and the great majority were let off with very short sentences. These men swell the number both under the headings of "under-trial" and "convicted".

At the close of the year 113 prisoners remained in Jail against 93 in the previous year. The disposal of prisoners in the last 2 years is as follows:—

		1896-97.	1897-98.
Died...	...	3	9
Escaped ...	...	4	1
Released ...	...	328	463
Transferred ...	...	9	5
Remaining ...	...	93	113

The number of deaths is the largest for many years. Three were due to cholera. One old prisoner died of apoplexy, two of chronic dysentery, one of chronic bowel complaint and two of remittent fever. Of the above 9 who died, two had contracted the disease which carried them off before they entered the Jail. The one escape which took place was that of an undertrial prisoner who was recaptured and punished. He has again escaped since the close of the year under circumstances little creditable to the Jail authorities.

Of the prisoners released, 254 were convicts, of whom 256 were released on expiry of sentence, 18 on appeal, 4 under the mark system and 6 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession. Two life prisoners were also released from Port Blair on the same occasion, but one of these preferred to remain in the Andamans. Three prisoners were transferred to Maktungung, one to Ganda for trial, and one to Allahpur Jail to undergo a life-sentence in the Andamans.

60. *Health of prisoners.*—The health of the Jail was not so good as in the previous year. As shown above cholera appeared and there was also more fever. The comparative figures are given below:—

	1896-97.	1897-98.
Average population of the Jail...	92.52	90.14
Admissions to Hospital...	189	214
Average of sick...	4.87	5.13
Percentage of admissions to population...	182.66	227
Average sick per cent of average population...	5.04	5.68
Deaths...	3	9
Percentage of deaths...	1.77	4.2

61. *Employment of Prisoners.*—A Donaldson's oil mill was fitted up during the year, but it has not been the success I anticipated from my experience of its working in the Alms House in Calcutta. Besides this all the old industries were kept up as well as extra-mural labour. The average number of prisoners employed increased from 10.69 to 11.89.

62. *Earnings of the Prisoners.*—The gross earnings are shown below:—

Description.	1896-97.		1897-98.	
	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
Jail servants ...	1,137	18 0	1,080	10 0
Repairs to Jail ...	183	7 0	352	15 6
Employed under the Public Works Department including Nilkuti garden.	328	9 6	296	4 0
Hired by Municipality ...	1	6 6	3	0 0
" the State Press ...	692	8 0	581	10 3
" private individuals ...	381	8 0	193	12 0
Employed in the Palace compound ...	221	9 0	192	13 0
" at the Devibari and other State works.	28	7 0	23	2 0
Jail garden ...	249	10 0	292	9 0
On manufactures ...	355	15 0	385	12 6
Total ...	3,580	10 0	3,402	7 3

There is a decrease of Rs. 178-2-9 in the gross earnings mainly due to the stoppage of extra-mural labour during the cholera epidemic and the substitution of less remunerative light indoor labour. The net earnings also fell for the same reason from Rs. 2,037-13 to Rs. 1,776-0-9, a decrease of Rs. 261-12-8.

The remittances to the Treasury were Rs. 3,892-0-1 against Rs. 4,356-13-6, a falling off of Rs. 464-13-5. The amount drawn from the Treasury was Rs. 1,454-14 against Rs. 1,267-8-9. The difference is thus Rs. 2,437-2-1 against Rs. 3,089-4-9 or a falling off of Rs. 652-2-8. The cause of this is that the oil mill was paid for and a stock of timber was also laid in.

63. *Cost of the Jail.*—The details of the cost of the Jail are given below:—

	1896-97.		1897-98.	
	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
Police guard* ...	2,928	0 0	2,864	0 0
Establishment ...	4,889	12 9	4,408	5 8
Feeding ...	4,595	5 6	5,313	11 3
Contingencies including Hospital expenses...	989	12 0	1,286	15 2
Clothing and bedding ...	922	4 6	963	11 0
Jail buildings and repairs ...	500	0 0	667	0 3
Gross cost ...	14,885	2 9	14,553	12 0
Deduct earnings etc. ...	3,580	10 0	3,402	7 3
Net cost ...	10,804	6 9	11,451	4 9
Average gross cost of each prisoner ...	155	7 5	164	12 5
Average net cost of each prisoner ...	116	10 3	127	0 7

* The cost of the Police guard is borne by the Police Department.

The increase in pay is due to increase in the pay of the Naib Jailor.

The increased cost of food is owing to the high price of food for a great part of the year. Prices were at their highest when the Jail was at its fullest owing to the grain riots.

Contingencies were also high owing to purchase of bullocks and night soil carts, and to the larger number treated in Hospital.

The increased cost of repairs is due to the removal of wards referred to in paragraph 58 and is more than repaid by the reduction in the cost of the guard. The distribution of the cost is as under:—

Description.	1896-97. .	1897-98.
Jail guard	Ra. 81 10 4	28 8 7
Establishment	" 47 7 1	48 14 5
Diet	" 49 10 8	57 18 6
Contingencies including Hospital expenses	" 10 11 1	13 11 6
Clothing and bedding	" 10 9 10	10 10 10
Buildings and repairs	" 5 0 5	7 6 4

64. *Maintenance of convicts in the Andamans.*—A sum of Ra. 1,797-15-1 was paid to the British Government for the maintenance of life-prisoners in the Andamans. The reduction from 1909-2-2 is owing to the releases above referred to and to one death.

65. *Reconvictions.*—These dropped from 17 to 11.

66. *Detention in Jail of undertrial Prisoners.*—The average period of detention has again gone down the period under report, being 11-10 days against 11-61 in the previous year. The longest period of detention in a Sessions case was 38 days against 52, and in cases tried by a Magistrate 29 against 36 days. The improvement is very marked.

67. *Conduct of Prisoners.*—Punishments fell from 28 to 26, and the Officer-in-charge reports that the prisoners behaved well.

68. *Mulk System.*—Four prisoners obtained reduction of sentences varying from 2 months to 8 months and 10 days.

69. *Fruit Garden and Sericulture and Rhea cultivation.*—The sale of fruits gave an income of Re- 71-7-6 while new grafts and plants to enlarge the garden—cost Re- 54-8-6. The attempts at Sericulture have been abandoned. The rainfall is in my opinion too heavy to admit of success.

Dr. G. Watt C. I. M., when here urged that the State should undertake to collect some statistics regarding the out-turn of Rhea, and it was decided to try the experiment in a selected part of the Narendra Narayan Park with Jail labour. The site chosen, about 3 biggahs, was high but not sufficiently so and the plants died. A small piece of higher land measuring about $\frac{1}{4}$ a biggah has since been planted out, but the results are not yet known. So far all that can be said is, that the experiment has proved that the plant cannot be extensively grown as jute is, owing to the liability of nearly the whole of the State to inundation. Small patches of high land can alone be used.

70. *Cattle breeding.*—133 cows were brought to the Jail for service against 194 in the previous year. The State suffered severely from rinder pest in the past year which accounts for the decrease.

Dairy.—The dairy supplied sufficient milk for the Jail consumption. One cow was sold and another purchased. The other was kept on.

71. *Inspection.*—The Jail was visited nearly every day by the Foudary Ahliker, I also inspected it 5 times, and the Dewan and the Judge also visited it several times.

72. *Conduct of Officers.*—The Jailor and his Assistant are again well reported on by the Officer in-charge.

73. *Last year.*—There was a large increase of 131 admissions in the past year, the total being 576 against 445. 19 men also remained from the previous year making 595 in all. Of these 234 were transferred to the Jail, 347 were released, one escaped and 13 remained.

The details for each Lock-up are as follow :—

	Dinhata.		Mathabhanga.		Mekligunj.		Toofangunj.	
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Died ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Escaped ...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	...
Released ...	66	83	94	128	36	70	89	88
Transferred	49	36	65	95	42	65	18	38
Remained on the last day of the year	1	3	4	4	4	2	10	4

74. *Earnings.*—The earnings are necessarily small and are given below :—

Name of Lock-up.	Gross earnings on account of in-door and out-door works.					
	1896-97.			1897-98.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Dinhata	27	3	0
Mathabhanga	56	11	6
Mekligunj	53	2	0
Toofangunj	62	8	0

75. *Cost of Lock-ups.*—The cost of each Lock-up and of each prisoner is shown in the following tables :—

	Name of Lock-up.							
	Dinhata.		Mathabhanga.		Mekligunj.		Toofangunj.	
	1896-97 ...	1897-98 ...	1896-97 ...	1897-98 ...	1896-97 ...	1897-98 ...	1896-97 ...	1897-98 ...
Average No. of prisoners ...	285	406	491	367	427	862	288	523
Yearly cost of each Lock-up...	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	
	1896-97 ...	248 13 3	395 12 8	309 0 8	323 6 9	196 11 3	186 11 3	352 7 0
Average gross cost per head of prisoners.	1896-97 ...	87 6 3*	60 2 9	82 8 6	66 4 10	74 18 1(a)	79 18 7(b)	67 15 11(c)
	1897-98 ...	74 18 1(a)	79 18 7(b)	67 15 11(c)	75 0 6(c)			

* The figure in the printed report for 1896-97 is not correct.

(a.) The decrease in the average cost is due to the increase in the number of prisoners.

(b.) The increase in the average cost is due to the decrease in the number of prisoners.

(c.) Rs. 75-0-6 represent the average cost of a prisoner including the pay of a warder and a sweeper for 12 months while Rs. 68-4-10 is the average gross cost of a prisoner for 10½ months, including the pay of a sweeper for 5 months and that of a warder for 8 months and 24 days.

76. *Inspection.*—The Dewan, the Judge and the Foudary Ahilkar inspected all the Lock-ups once and the last named officer visited Toofangunge twice. I inspected Dinhata and Mekligunge. The Civil Surgeon did no inspection.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

77. *Introductory.*—The key-note of this report, and, I fear, of a number of Annual Reports to come, is the earth-quake of the 12th of June last.

It is no exaggeration to say that the whole of the Public Works in the State have suffered more or less, and that a great deal of the work done during Your Highness' minority or since Your accession to power will have to be done over again. Buildings, railway, roads, bridges, tanks and wells all have suffered and it will take many years to repair the damage done in that unhappy three minutes.

The administrative wants of the State had been nearly all supplied. The College was the only State Institution that remained without a fitting house, and this matter was not urgent. It looked as if in the near future money might be available for such works as a proper railing for the Palace grounds, and the reclamation of the land between the Palace and the Rajmata's house. The earthquake has changed all this, and for years to come the bulk of the sum available for the Public Works will have to be spent in renewing the buildings &c. damaged by the earthquake. Your Highness was at Cooch Behar at the time of the calamity and a sum of a lakh of rupees was at once given from the cash balances, of which Rs. 50,000 were given for the repair of the State offices, and Rs. 50,000 for the repair of the north wing of the Palace. Details of the expenditure are given further on in this report. ✓

It was at the same time decided that the Communication Improvement Fund should be left to its own resources and this decision appears to be a just one. Your Highness decided to give a fixed sum yearly for this purpose and it is fair that the fund should bear the brunt of bad years as it benefits in good years. The result is that it will be longer before the roads in the State are all properly bridged, but it is fair that all departments should suffer from the effects of the earthquake.

The Government of Bengal very kindly allowed Mr. Cloëte, Superintending Engineer of the Northern Circle, to visit Cooch Behar and give his advice, and I would here publicly acknowledge the value of the advice so given. The whole of the repairs have been done on the lines laid down by Mr. Cloëte, which secured that every weak spot should be fully shewn in the plans and that the repairs should be thorough and complete.

78. *Budget and Supplementary Grants.*—The Budget grant for the year was Rs. 73,631 but it was raised during the year to Rs. 1,78,203, out of which Rs. 1,72,821 were expended and Rs. 5,382 lapsed.

79. *Original works as originally budgetted.*—The original budget provided only the small sum of Rs. 6,462 for original works, out of which Rs. 1,000 were for unforeseen, (afterwards reduced to Rs. 500 and of which Rs. 42 only were expended) and Rs. 3,613 for the completion of the Judge's house.

The sums provided for other works and the sums spent are shewn below :—

	Budget provision.	Expended.
Additions to the Fulbari Dispensary	600	490
Quarter Guard	97	73
* Pucca well in Lines	83	36
Post Office at Fulbari	508	350
Rest House at Haldibari	290	173
* Partition in Mekliganj Kutchery	100	88

These were all petty works and were mostly carried out well within the estimate. The well in the lines cost more than the estimate owing to difficulties in sinking. The chief work completed during the year was the Judge's house. The total estimate for this work was Rs. 20,003, Rs. 16,852 had been expended up to the end of 1896-97 and Rs. 3,613 were provided in the year under report. The work however cost Rs. 20,143 or Rs. 140 above the estimate. The sum has been provided by re-appropriation. The main building cost Rs. 5.2 per superficial foot and the out-houses Rs. 1.12. The house had just been completed when the earthquake took place and it suffered some damage.

80. *Original works subsequently sanctioned. Well in the Rajmata's compound.*—Rs. 800 were sanctioned in 1896-97 for this work but only Rs. 687 were expended in that year. A fresh grant of Rs. 113 was made during the year under report but Rs. 83 only were expended, the work being completed for Rs. 770.

* *Bungalow for the Superintendent of the State.*—The house occupied by me having been completely wrecked by the earth-quake, Your Highness sanctioned a sum of Rs. 3,000 for the construction of a thatched Bungalow to south of the ruins of the old house. The use of the doors of the old house was sanctioned, and timber for the flooring was given from the forest. With these concessions a house 78' x 62' was put up for a cost of Rs. 2,948. Two rooms only are floored with bamboo.

Kutcha stable in the Palace compound.—As the Palace stabling was given up for the use of the Jenkin's school, the College and the Printing office, a 12 stalled stable was put up for Your Highness' horses measuring 60' x 36'. The iron fittings of the old stable were used and a brick on edge flooring was given except in the middle passage where Doulton's ware is used. The cost was Rs. 2,417 against an estimate of Rs. 2,909.

Additions to the tin Bungalows for Your Highness' use.—Your Highness decided that, until the north wing of the Palace could be got ready, You would occupy the two tin Bungalows on the north west corner of the Sagordighi. The works so done are reckoned as original works and cost Rs. 2,027 against an estimate of Rs. 1,909.

✓ *Electric lighting of the Palace.*—The costly chandeliers in the public rooms of the Palace were so shattered by the earth-quake as to be useless and Your Highness determined to introduce electric lighting as more satisfactory in the long run. A contract was entered into by Your Highness with Messrs Osler & Co., and the work in the North Wing was begun so that it might go on along with the repairs and thus avoid damage to the walls. The contract provided that all charges for freight and local labor and material should be borne by Your Highness, in addition to the contract sum of Rs. 40,000; and a sum of Rs. 1,393 was expended in this way during the year.

Post Mortem house.—A small post mortem house was also sanctioned at Haldibari at a cost of Rs. 41. The total expended on original works was therefore Rs. 13,350 against a revised budget provision of Rs. 14,742.

81. *Miscellaneous Public Improvements.*—Provision was made in the budget for half the cost of deepening the Banerwar tank but this item was struck out after the earthquake.

The upkeep of the Nilkothi gardens cost Rs 1,097 against a Budget provision of Rs 1,052.

82. *FOREST.—Forest in General.*—Out of Rs. 2,000 provided under this heading Rs 1,623 were expended. All the Forests were thinned, and over 1,000 Shishob trees were planted at Guardhat. The orange trees planted there 2 years ago are not doing well, and I fear nothing can be done to make the large area of high land at Garadhat profitable. The soil is so poor that nothing will grow, and I fear the money expended in planting Shishob trees is only wasted.

Planting and protecting trees in avenues.—1896 seedlings with new enclosures were put out during the year. The Superintendent of Works complains that some of his subordinates fail to take sufficient interest in this part of their work.

Manufacture of Sleepers.—Towards the close of the year a grant of Rs 6,600 was made for the manufacture of 10,000 sleepers for the extension of the Balliway, but it was found impossible to do the work within the year and the grant was reduced to Rs 3,000, the balance being given in the current year's Budget. About 5,000 sleepers were made. These were made from both Sal and Shishob and if these latter prove a success the State will be able to supply the State Railway with sleepers, and a market will be at once provided for the timber grown in the State. The Railway pay 1-8 a sleeper and those made cost about 0-11-0 the profit is therefore large and would pay for creosoting or some such other

measure for preserving the wood. Some were however very badly cut, particularly those made on the Haldibari side. As the men get more accustomed to the work such mistakes will not be made.

REPAIRS.

88. *Distribution of grant for Repairs among the different classes of buildings.*—The usual statement is given shewing the expenditure on repairs for the past two years, but an additional column is added for the year under report to show the sums spent on earth-quake repairs. These headings however are to a considerable extent deceptive, and it may be said that practically, with the exception of the small amount of repair work done before the 12th of June, all the expenditure under both headings is for earth-quake repairs. Under the former heading are shewn all repairs which could be done within the grant for the year for repairs, whether they were really ordinary annual repairs or were repairs rendered necessary by the earth-quake, and under the latter are shown the heavier repairs for which special extra grants had to be got.

The distribution is as follows :—

Classification of public buildings.	Expenditure in 1896-97.	Expenditure 1897-98.		Total.
		Annual and petty repairs.	Earth-quake repairs.	
1. Palace and connected buildings ...	12,528	7,890	55,978	68,798
2. Private residences ...	4,310	4,542	3,355	7,797
3. Miscellaneous ...	1,848	1,788	1,443	3,181
4. Religious Ecclesiastical ...	1,302	989	2,478	3,412
5. Court houses ...	2,619	941	29,555	30,496
6. Educational ...	2,277	1,328	.....	1,328
7. Dāk bungalows and rest houses ...	748	507	.....	507
8. Police and Military ...	390	376	.....	376
9. Public Works ...	806	579	1,231	1,810
10. Medical ...	1,417	497	2,856	3,353
11. Govt. Offices, Postal and Telegraph	523	352	342	694
12. Jail and Lock-ups ...	497	611	.....	611
Total ...	29,250	20,220	97,133	1,17,868

The Palace and connected buildings, and Woodlands.—The Rajmata's house has been put under this heading this year being transferred from private residences. Out of the total of Rs 68,798 expended on the Palace Rs 41,196 were spent on the north wing, the repairs to which were nearly completed during the year. The English kitchen, the Tennis Court, the Stables and Coach-house, as well as the Rajmata's house, were completed, and Woodlands was also extensively repaired.

The Palace suffered most in the south and central portions, hence the northern portion was taken up first, both as containing Your Highness' rooms and as being most easily repaired.

It is proposed to do the southern wing during the current year and the Dome and central portion next year, but very probably the work will have to be extended into a fourth year. As before stated, Mr. Clotte examined the Palace as well as all other buildings, and he, after considerable hesitation, condemned the Dome as unsafe, and recommended that the decision regarding what should take the place of the Dome, as well as of all the other terminals which were shattered by the earth-quake, should be entrusted to the best architect whose services could be obtained. He suggested the name of Mr. Gwyther should his services be obtainable, and failing him Mr. Stevens of Bombay. The Government of Bengal kindly allowed Mr. Gwyther to take up the work, and he visited Cooch Behar, and was to have visited it a second time before he went on furlough, but was prevented owing to domestic reasons and his report was sent back from Calcutta.

He agrees with Mr. Clotte and would preserve the Dome, but his report unfortunately does not deal with the four big lowest arches on which the whole

stability of the Dome depends, and Your Highness has therefore determined to obtain a further opinion on this point before any work is actually done.

Private Residences.—The largest item of the expenditure was under unforeseen Rs. 2,228, and this included the cost of temporary accommodation in some cases where the house had been rendered unsafe. The only other big items were Rs. 1,644 for the 4 Sub-divisional officers' quarters, Rs. 1,267 for the out houses of the Superintendent of the State's house and Rs. 1,187 for repairs to the Judge's house.

Miscellaneous.—Under this heading also the chief expenditure was on petty repairs under unforeseen, under which heading were included repairs to the Artizan School and the Tent Godown. Under earth-quake repairs the chief expenditure was on the Gymkhana house and the Elephant sheds. These last were damaged both by the earth-quake and by storms.

Religious buildings.—The chief expenditure was on Madan Mohan's Temple Rs. 1,324, and on the Brahmo Somaj Building Rs. 1,149.

Court Houses.—These buildings suffered very severely in the earth-quake and considerable changes have been rendered necessary. The Council house (Council office upstairs and Judge's office on ground floor) was pronounced unsafe as a two storied building and has been cut down to a single storey, which now accommodates the Council office only. Rs. 6,268 were expended on the repairs and alterations.

The Dewan's office and Treasury had also to be razed and is now a single storied building occupied by the Judge. It cost Rs. 3,918.

The Jenkin's school was much damaged towards the north. It has been restored at a cost of Rs. 3,635, and now is occupied by the Dewan and the Treasury officer, the school having been moved to the Palace Stables.

My office was much damaged and the verandah came down, but it was held to be safe to be retained as a two storied building and has been repaired at a cost of Rs. 3,314.

The east wing of the Council house was also taken in hand and was partly done at the close of the year, the expenditure being Rs. 2,576.

Finally the Dinbata Cutchery cost Rs. 2,930 and the Mathabhanga Rs. 1,780. The former building was only completed in the previous year.

Educational.—The expenditure was small as the college and school were both moved to the Palace Stables.

Dak Bungalows, and Police and Military.—These two headings call for no remark.

Public Works.—The bulk of the expenditure was incurred in repairing the less damaged of the two college buildings as a Public Works office at a cost of Rs. 1,231.

Medical.—It had not been intended to begin the Dispensary repairs in the current year, but when the Superintendent of Works found he could not complete the North wing of the Palace within the year, Rs. 2,000 were transferred to the Dispensary and Rs. 2,856 were spent.

Government offices, and Jails.—These headings call for no remark.

84. *Provision for petty repairs.*—An important change was made under this heading in the budget of the year under report. It had been the custom for the Superintendent of Works to submit with his budget each year in March estimates for the repairs of all the buildings under his control, whether the repairs required were extensive or petty.

A considerable number of buildings are cutcha, and the extent of repairs such buildings may require cannot be foreseen, as so much depends on damage done by the rains. It also appeared that in many cases unnecessary repairs in other buildings were executed because they were included in the estimate. Your Highness therefore decided to have estimates with the budget for only the more important repairs, regarding the necessity of which there could be no doubt, and to

provide a lump sum for all petty repairs. Section 55 chap IX of the P.W. Code was slightly amended to suit the conditions of the State, and during the past year all petty repairs have been done on requisition. The working of the change can hardly be reported on this year as the earthquake upset all ordinary calculations, but I am convinced that the change will lead to both economy and efficiency, and it has been continued this year. The grant originally made was Rs. 7,000 but it was cut down to Rs. 5,991 in the revised budget. That sum was however exceeded by Rs. 780 and the Superintendent of Works has been called on for explanation. In the statement appended the amount expended from this provision is shown separately, but as above remarked the bulk was expended on earthquake repairs.

85. *Tanks and Wells*.—Only Rs. 85 were expended during the past year from Public Works funds. Much has however been done under the heading of contribution works.

86. *Tools and Plant*.—The purchase of tools cost Rs. 1,104 against a budget provision of Rs. 500 only. The enormously increased expenditure on Public Works may be held to be the cause of the excess. The sum for repairs was Rs. 1,200 of which Rs. 850 only were expended.

87. *State Carts*.—The cost of maintaining these carts was Rs. 6,613 against an original estimate of Rs. 7,000 and a revised estimate of Rs. 5,800. The receipts were Rs. 6,957 against an estimate of Rs. 7,500. The profit is only Rs. 344 and the Superintendent of Works is of opinion the rate of hire 0-12-0 a day should be raised to Re. 1. If prices do not go down this should be done, but I do not advocate an immediate rise. At the close of the year there were 27½ pairs of bullocks. The number of deaths necessarily interfered with the profits as the number of working pairs was much reduced.

The great mortality among the State cattle from rinderpest necessitated a grant of Rs. 1,500 for purchase of new bullocks, of which Rs. 1,423 were expended.

88. *Establishment*.—The Superintendent of Works reports on the whole fairly regarding his subordinates. Of the ten employed on regular State work, five have no technical education at all. One has had some teaching in the Rangpur technical school, and three at Dacca. These men ordinarily have to deal chiefly with road repairs and earth work, and to supervise the fixed road establishment and see they do their work. Last year a great strain was thrown on them, and I am glad to be able to report that it was generally borne well. The main lines of roads were made passable in a very short time after the earthquake, though in places, where the roads had sunk and fissures had become quicksands, considerable difficulties were encountered. Owing to the earthquake and the financial strain it has caused, the Superintendent of Works has delayed his report regarding establishment. His office too has been very hard worked during the past year.

89. *Artisan School*.—The value of work done in the year under report was Rs. 10,456 a considerable reduction on the value of the previous year. The outstanding bills were Rs. 50 only against Rs. 181 in the previous year. The private work done represented only 2-4 of the whole work. The number of bills issued was 184.

COMMUNICATION IMPROVEMENT FUND.

90. *General Review*.—This fund has now been in existence for six years and I congratulate Your Highness on the wisdom which was shewn in the establishment of a separate Communication Fund.

In these 6 years it has been fully established that in ordinary years the grant is sufficient to keep the roads in order, and to leave a surplus. Out of this surplus part is, under Your Highness' orders, to be kept in hand to meet extraordinary expenditure which is ordinarily due to floods, and part, to be expended on gradually improving the larger bridges in the State. The smaller bridges are provided for in the ordinary repairs. In this way in the course of time all the roads in the State will be properly bridged.

I hold that the ordinary balance to provide against flood and other extraordinary damages should be Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000.

The fund has had to keep up 5 miles of metalled road, 385 miles of unmetalled road and 187½ miles of village roads, but from the current year there will be a reduction of 26 miles of unmetalled road, the District Boards of Jalpaiguri and Rangpur having taken over that amount of road lying in these districts but hitherto maintained by the Cooch Behar State. These were roads situated in the Chaklajat Estates, and for the most part made at Your Highness' expense as famine works, and which have since been maintained from the same source from which they were constructed. In the face of the heavy payments for Road-cess made on account of these Zemindaries, it was obviously unfair that the Cooch Behar State should also maintain these roads, and on the matter being represented, the Bengal Government at once agreed to take them over.

91. *Expenditure of the year.*—The total expenditure was Rs. 50,526 against Rs. 45,237 in the previous year and against a budget provision of Rs. 55,130. This last was entirely upset by the earth-quake, and the amount expended is what it was found possible to expend during the year.

92. *Original works.*—The more important works done during the year are the following:—

Bridge over the Mora Torsa on the Lowkuti road.—This is a screw pile bridge with rolled steel joists, 4 spans of 30 feet. The piles are from the old Sunity bridge and are 5" in diameter. The abutments were nearly complete, and the piles were nearly all driven, when the earth-quake cracked the former and threw them out of plumb, and twisted the piles. The piles had to be taken out and redriven, and the cracks in the masonry were filled in, but otherwise the abutments were left and it remains to be seen how long they will last out of plumb as they are. The cost was Rs. 8,942 against an estimate (revised) of Rs. 9,288. The original estimate was Rs. 8,288.

Bridge on the Phukkhana road.—This bridge was rendered necessary by the diversion of the town drainage to the Mora-Torsa. The original estimate was Rs. 1,775 for a 20 foot span arched bridge. This was barely completed when the earth-quake destroyed the arch. The abutments were not much injured so the bridge was reconstructed with old girders. The revised estimate was Rs. 2,275 and the work was completed for Rs. 1,859.

Diversion of the Rungpore road and conversion of the Manshai bridge into a cart bridge.—The sum of Rs. 2,066 was paid to the Eastern Bengal State Railway for the conversion of the bridge, but before any work was done the bridge was wrecked by the earth-quake. It has been reconstructed with much reduced water way, and part of this sum will probably be refunded. The road has been completed all but the approaches to the Torsa bridge.

Katamari to Manabari road.—This road was begun in the previous year from contribution funds (vide paragraph 117 of last year's report). The original estimate was Rs. 4,011 but the Superintendent of Works reports that Rs. 2,957 of State money and Rs. 1,400 of contribution have been spent or Rs. 4,357. There are still two gaps of about 100 feet each on the road and till these are bridged it can only be a fair weather road. It is much used by people going to and from Mathabhanga.

Pucca Bridge on the Emigration road west of Cooch Behar, 2nd project.—This bridge was to have been of 12 foot spans, segmental arches, but when nearly completed the earth-quake damaged it, and it was decided to substitute girders for the masonry spans. Rs. 1,681 were expended during the year, but the work was not completed, and it will now be finished by the Jalpaiguri District Board to which body this part of the road has now been made over.

The total expenditure on original works was Rs. 22,881, against a budget estimate of Rs. 24,371, and Rs. 18,602 expended in the previous year. The minor works call for no special remarks.

93. *Repairs.*—As soon as possible after the earth-quake a special estimate amounting to Rs. 29,894 was submitted for earth-quake repairs to roads. This did not include repairs to the bigger bridges, but it included all necessary earth-work and repairs to minor bridges. A sum of Rs. 6,776 was granted from last year's budget for the most urgent works and the balance is provided in the current year. By the end of the current year therefore it is hoped that the roads and minor bridges will be restored as they were before the earth-quake, and the major bridges will be taken in hand as funds admit.

The damage to the major bridges is very great, and the Superintendent of Works reports in the following terms :—

It is not exaggeration to say that two thirds of the expenditure on the improvement of communication of the State has been lost for ever. There is not a single bridge of importance which has escaped the convulsions of the earth-quake. Many have been distorted and disfigured and some have altogether collapsed. All the pucca bridges on the Rungpore road and on the F. . . Road are seriously damaged. The bridge over the Ghargharia river, 200 ft. span, on the Lowkutty road, a similar structure on the same river 165 ft. on the Buxa road ; 140 ft. span over the Dhalla river ; 175 ft. over the Dhabalsati Nala at Patgram ; 140 ft. on the Shaniajan river on the Emigration Road, and similar other bridges on the same and other roads completely destroyed. The new iron bridge over Dolong river on the 15th mile of the Emigration road was seriously distorted. Traffic had to be restored either by establishment of ferries or by constructing temporary bridges, several miles of the Emigration road and other roads altogether disappeared under the ground, and several miles fissured in such a way that deep gaps were formed on the roads by the flood which succeeded the earth-quake. Three miles of the Emigration Road on the other side of Teesta river had to be altogether reconstructed.

It is surprising to see how many of the damaged bridges continue to carry traffic. Hog-backed, contorted and twisted, they still hold together, and may do so for some years, though their lives are necessarily much shortened, and if a fair proportion of such bridges continue to hold together it is hoped that, by taking up the worst first, traffic will not suffer much.

CHAKLAJAT ESTATES.

94. *Budget grant.*—The Budget grant was Rs. 9,684 and Rs. 1,000 were added for earth-quake repairs. The department however failed to bring into account more than Rs. 8,478. This failure to utilize the funds granted is not creditable, and full explanation has been called for. The Superintendent of Works in his report merely says that "full adjustments could not be done owing to early closing of the accounts."

The accounts were closed as usual on the 31st of March, so this is no excuse. The real reason, to the best of my belief, is that the Public Works Office was over-worked.

95. *Original Works.*—Only Rs. 1,630 were expended on Original works during the year. The Rajnagar and Mulkadah cutcheries were completed at a cost of Rs. 349 each or Rs. 698 in all. A barkandazes' shed was put up at Debigunj at a cost of Rs. 659. The balance of the expenditure was for wells at Bairagirhat (completed during the year) Panga and Ghoraghat.

96. *Repairs.*—Rs. 6,106 were spent on repairs against Rs. 3,738 in the previous year. Of this sum Rs. 2,542 were expended on earth-quake repairs.

MISCELLANEOUS AND CONTRIBUTION WORKS.

97. *Town of Cooch Behar.*—The Superintendent of Works expended a sum of Rs. 19,729 within the town during the year under report. Details are given in the Town Committee's report.

98. *Wells.*—The sum of Rs. 1,500 provided and partially spent last year was expended in full (all but Rs. 7) during the year under report. The Changrabanda Hât well was also completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 775 leaving Rs. 25 in hand.

A well was also begun at Bhaishkuchi, towards the cost of which, estimated at Rs. 588, local contributions were promised to the amount of Rs. 565. The balance is provided in the current year's Budget. Rs. 109 only were expended last year on this work.

Repairs to the Kasiabari Hat-well were begun during the year and Rs. 192 were expended out of Rs. 250. contributed. A special contribution of Rs. 2,000 was made for earth-quake repairs to wells, of which Rs. 500 were from the funds provided for the celebration of Your Highness' birth-day, and Rs. 1,500 from the Pound Fund, but only Rs. 414 were expended during the year. The main addition to the provision for good drinking water in the State was due to the transfer of the balance of the Famine Fund Rs. 4,768, together with a further sum of Rs. 348 raised by the Dewan, or Rs. 5,111 in all to the Superintendent of Works for expenditure on new wells. 18 Nortons' Tube wells were purchased, of which 5 were purchased by private individuals, 4 are still in hand, and the rest were put up in different places in the State. Two pucca wells at Ranirhat in Toofangunj and Ghoksadanga in Mathabhanga have been put in hand, and pipes have been ordered for sinking Ranigunj pipe wells in the following places:—

Ranirhat in Mekligunj.

Gumanir Hat, and Lalbazar in Mathabhanga.

Haribolar Hat, and Burir Hat in Dinhata.

Patlakhowa in the Sudder.

Only Rs. 1,483 were, adjusted during the year. From the above it will be seen that much work has been done in this important matter during the past year.

99. *Court of Ward's Office*.—This building was completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 2,844 being Rs. 140 below the estimate.

100. *Mekligunj Thakurbari and Natmandir*.—This temple was nearly completed during the year, and materials for the Natmandir for which Ganga Bishun Patwar has given Rs. 1,000 were collected. Rs. 764 were expended on these two works during the year.

101. *Head quarters of Sub-division's*.—Rs. 559 were expended in improving the four Sub-divisional Head-Quarters from funds granted from the Pound Fund.

102. *Mathabhanga School*.—This was much damaged by the earth-quake, and Rs. 734 were sanctioned from school funds for repairs. Rs. 269 only were expended. A further sum of Rs. 62 was spent on the doors of this school house.

103. *Ghat on the Bairagidighi*.—A sum of Rs. 1,756 was granted from the escheated property of the late Janoki Tewari for a stone ghat with an iron pavilion in front of the temple of Madan Mohan Thakur. The stones are from Gosani-mari.

The other items do not call for special mention.

104. *Tents and Camp Furniture*.—A tent and pal and a khaki cloth hill tent were purchased during the year. It will be necessary to purchase new tents next year. 10 camp beds, 10 folding tubs, 13 camp chairs and a table were purchased during the year. The camp furniture and tents were also repaired.

✓ 105. *Extension of the Cooch Behar State Railway to the town*.—Last year I reported that it was fortunate the bridge work had not made more progress else the damage done by the Earthquake would have been much greater. The effect of the Earthquake was most felt on the southern or high bank of the river which was much fissured. The Railway embankment also sunk in places. The result was that when the heavy flood of the first week of September supervened, about 250 feet of the south bank were washed away, and two gaps were also cut near the junction of the old and the new lines. The question then arose whether, under the altered state of the river and its banks, the site of the bridge should be changed or not, and whether any modifications were necessary in the plans. The site was visited on the 1st of December by Sir A. Trevor K.C.S.I., accompanied by the Manager, Engineer-in-chief and other officers of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and it was decided to adhere to the site and not to modify the plan further than was rendered necessary by the cutting of the bank. The south cutting necessitated the south abutment being retired for a distance of over 200 feet and the north abutment being advanced by the same distance which brought it close to the main stream of the river, which had to be diverted, and time was lost in this

work. There was also great delay in getting tools, the first pair of crab winches arriving on the 8th of January, and the second pair on the 20th of April. Two more capstans were ordered to hurry on the work but they only arrived on the 6th of May and they were not delivered in full till June. It has been much the same with other things, and, while I admit the great advantages in having the supervision of the Eastern Bengal State Railway Engineers, I think it would have been better had the Superintendent of Works had the power of ordering the necessary tools and appliances direct. The result is that the bridge could not be finished, and that work has had to be abandoned till October or November next. Apart from the bridge the Superintendent of works reports that "the gaps on the road have been filled up, rails laid, Station buildings and staff quarters constructed during the year." A temporary low level bridge was constructed during the cold weather and an engine and carriages were brought to the northern bank, so that the line may be opened at any time for traffic. At present ballast trains only run. The expenditure incurred by the Superintendent of works during year was Rs. 14,808, and the total expenditure incurred by him is Rs. 87,566 out of an estimate of Rs. 1,78,738. The funds are controlled by the Manager, Eastern Bengal State Railway, who has intimated that he expects to complete the bridge within the estimate.

✓106. *Extension of the Cooch Behar State Railway to Alipore and Santrabari.*—This line, the survey of which was reported on in paragraph 120 of last year's report, was sanctioned by the Government of India late in December, and orders to go on with the work were received in January. The Government of India also granted Your Highness a loan of Rs. 2,00,000 on the same terms as the previous railway loan to enable the portion in Your Highness' State to be undertaken at once. The plans and estimates were, as stated in last year's report, drawn up by the Superintendent of Works, and the construction, both within and without the Cooch Behar State, is, with Your Highness' sanction, to be carried out by him, under the supervision and control of the Engineer-in-Chief of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The orders were to press on the work as fast as possible and I consider the progress made by the Superintendent as most creditable to him and to his power of organizing and utilizing labor. The work done before the close of the year was as follows:—

1. Earth-work. Practically completed up to the boundary of the forest, including the whole of the work within this State; some earth-work also done within the Reserve forest.

2. Jungle clearing. Completed throughout the whole line.

3. Arrangements made for cutting sleepers both in this State and in the Government Forest. About 7,000 sleepers were supplied within the year.

4. Brick manufacture. Started at the following places:—

Bowti	on the	... 5th mile.
Ghorgharin	"	... 8th "
Kholta	"	... 11th "
Rajabhatkhowa	"	... 22nd "

The work was completed at the first two places.

5. Plate-laying was begun, also construction of bridges and strengthening of girders.

The northern section was very unhealthy and there was great want of water. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 58,881. This will be divided between this State and the India Government hereafter.

107. *Superintendent of Works.*—The work done by this officer and his staff since the earth-quake as detailed in the preceding paragraphs is, in my opinion, a record. It must be remembered that local labor is practically non-existent, that road-coolies, masons, in fact workmen of all kinds have to be imported; that even carts could not be got in the State in sufficient number and had also to be brought from outside, and that for more than a month after the earth-quake there was no Railway communication. To have carried out the various and varied works above detailed in the face of such difficulties shows a power of organization on the part of the Superintendent of Works seldom met with, and which I cannot write of too highly.

Since this was written the Manager has again reported that he expects the estimate to be exceeded.

EDUCATION.

I.—PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.

108. *General Summary.*—The year has been one of severe labour to the Educational Staff and the results are most creditable to the Department. As stated in paragraph 141 of last year's report the officers of the Department were engaged from December 1896 to February 1897 in collecting statistics regarding the food-stocks of the people of the State. Partly in consequence of the information thus gained it was determined by Your Highness that some relief was necessary before the early rice crop came in, and the Educational officers were again employed on this duty from very early in May till the date of the earthquake. All this time they had to struggle to keep schools going in spite of the high prices. After the earthquake the difficulty was to get the schools to meet at all. Parents would not let their children out of their sight, not knowing what would happen next, and the attendance dropped down to almost nothing. The officers of the Department did all they could to encourage the people, and the Inspector states that the famine work done by him and his subordinates was of great help, as it had given the people confidence in them and enabled them to act with more effect. The result is that by the end of the year all trace of both the famine and the earthquake had disappeared in an educational point of view, and the following table shows that no real or lasting harm was done. I am most agreeably surprised, as I expected a very marked falling off, and I recognise how much of the success of the year is due to what I may call the personal element.

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The table shows an increase of 9 schools (8 private), with a decrease of 16 pupils at the close of the year, and a reduction of 109 only in the daily average attendance. This shows how well the schools must have worked in the latter months of the year after recovery from the effects of the earth-quake. The correctness of these figures is proved by the large increase of Rs. 582 under the heading of income from fees and fines. This is the soundest form of income which schools can have, and it goes far towards balancing the decrease of Rs. 943 in the income received from other sources. From the above results, the Inspector is, I think, fully justified in anticipating still further improvement due to the increased grant of Rs. 1,000 given by Your Highness in the current year, which he thinks will increase "the number, strength and efficiency" of the Schools, while "under improved organization and more careful inspection the department will

soon attain to a degree of efficiency unknown to it before." He is also, I hold, justified in claiming that the schools which have stood the trials of the past two years have proved their stability and are not likely to be affected by adverse circumstances.

109.—*Results of Public Examinations.*—In spite of the above mentioned difficulties 235 schools sent up 511 candidates for examination, against 211 and 458 in the previous year. The results are as follow:—

Examination.	PASSED.		REMARKS.
	1896-97.	1897-98.	
Higher English, Entrance, ...	5	3	
Rajshahi Divisional examinations.	M. E. 1 M. V. 29 U. P. 24	1 15 25	
Female ...	4	.....
Primary ..	129	129	
Sanskrit...	3	3	

The results are on the whole not bad. It will be seen that no girls passed. Six were willing to go up, but they would not go to the appointed centres and, after full consideration, I refused to give special centres for them as likely to lead to abuses.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

110. *The Sub-Divisional Schools*—The table given below shows an increase of two pupils in the 3 schools, while the average daily attendance is the same as it was in the previous year.

Name of School.	No. of students.		Languages studied.		Expenditure.		
	Roll on 31st March 1898.	Average daily attendance.	English.	Vernacular.	State grant.	Local sources.	Total.
Mekligunj ...	121	78	72	49	1,500 0 0	1,257 4 9	2,757 4 9
Mathabhangha ...	124	86	80	44	1,500 0 0	1,780 5 6	3,280 5 6
Dinhata ...	93	65	47	46	1,500 0 0	1,509 12 10	3,009 12 10
Total ...	338	228	199	139	4,500 0 0	4,547 7 1	9,047 7 1

The Inspector again reports well on the discipline of these schools. One boy was expelled from the Mekligunge School for using unfair means at the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination. The boys are also encouraged to play cricket, foot-ball and other games, and they take a yearly increasing interest in physical exercise.

Mekligunj School.—This school at last shows signs of improvement under its present Head-master. The number of pupils on the roll at the end of the year was 121 against 116 and the average attendance has gone up from 74 to 78. This improvement is due entirely to the last 5 months of the year, and if it continues the results of the current year will be much better. The school house was blown down after the close of the year, but before this occurred steps had been

taken to erect a new house which is now under construction. The details will come into next year's report. The number of free studentships has now been reduced to 5. There is a small improvement of Rs. 86 in the amount of local funds, and altogether the school has decidedly improved in the past year.

Three candidates went up for the Entrance Examination, and one passed in the 3rd Division.

Two candidates only went up for the Vernacular Scholarship Examination and one passed. These results cannot be held to be good but I think improvement has begun.

The state of the school is not yet good but I trust it soon will be so.

Mathabhanga School.—The roll has decreased by one boy and the daily attendance by 3. The vernacular department of this school is not satisfactory. The building was much damaged by the earth-quake, and temporary sheds had to be put up. There was some difficulty regarding the provision of funds for repairs to the permanent building, but I finally decided that this was a fair charge on the invested funds of the school. The financial results look well on paper, but Rs. 587-8 were realised from postponement fees which is a precarious source of income. There were only 2 free scholars.

Six boys went up for the Entrance Examination and two passed, one in the second and one in the third division. Two boys went up for the Vernacular Scholarship Examination and failed, though one passed for the Upper Primary. The Head Pandit has been called on to explain his repeated failures.

Dinhata School.—The number of pupils was two less than in the previous year and the average daily attendance one less. This school is living on its capital, nearly half of the whole income shown as derived from local sources being drawn from capital. I am in favour of revising the expenditure in this school, and decreasing the grant if more genuine local subscriptions are not forthcoming.

Three boys went up for the Entrance and all failed.

Six went up for the Vernacular Scholarship Examination and one only passed which is very poor. The Head Pandit who had served 28 years has since died. There is no abuse of free scholarships in this school.

111. *Middle English Schools.*—Four such schools have been established under the grant-in-aid rules. During the year grants were given, under the same rules, to admit of English classes being started in the Model schools of Balarampur and Sitalkhuchi. I can not do better than quote the words of the Inspector of Schools on this subject. He says "Though in itself it was a very simple affair, it was welcomed however as a significant concession and the beginning of a system pregnant with important results. The system was introduced in Bengal so far back as 1880, and Sir Alfred Croft was pleased to refer to it thus :—'We desire to offer efficient Vernacular schools all reasonable facilities for opening English classes. The knowledge of even a little English is under the present circumstances of the country, a valuable acquisition to those whose education ends at the Middle standard, Doctor Martin goes further and says that 'even the object of primary education would be defeated without a knowledge of the English alphabet and numerals to enable the possessor to decipher trade marks and understand calculations on the European system of weights and measures.' What in Bengal was thus called forth. 18 years ago in the course of natural development, had to be adopted in Cooch Behar as a safe guard against the decline of purely Vernacular Education. Without some knowledge of English boys meet with difficulties in getting admission into the Medical and Survey schools in Bengal, and even in our own English schools a Middle Vernacular scholar, without some previous knowledge of English, is placed at a certain disadvantage, and being rather of advanced age, cannot compete for the Entrance Examination timely. Thus both at school and in life, some knowledge of English is necessary."

The statistics of the 4 schools and two classes are given below. The pupils who read English at the two last institutions are included, with two exceptions in the roll of the Model schools, so they are not again shown.

Names of Schools	STRENGTH.		LANGUAGES STUDIED.		EXPENDITURE.		
	Roll on the 31st March 1898.	Average daily attendance.	English.	Vernacular.	State grant.	Local sources.	Total.
					Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Gobrachara ...	66	41	20	46	420 0 0	502 4 9	922 4 9
Khorkharia ...	78	50	43	35	800 0 0	800 4 3	600 0 0
Haldibari ...	76	56	56	20	327 0 0	330 0 0	657 0 0
Upanchowky ...	69	61	25	44	267 0 0	293 8 0	560 8 0
Balarampur ...	2	2	43	...	90 0 0	90 0 0	180 0 0
Shitalkhuchi...	...	...	18	...	90 0 0	111 0 0	201 0 0
Total ...	291	210	205	145	7,494 0 0	1,626 12 9	3,120 12 9

These schools have gone up in numbers and their financial position is sound on paper, but they have not done good work. The masters are bad as a rule, and good men will not stay. As shown above, all 4 schools only passed one boy in the Middle English standard who came from the Khorkharia school. The Inspector proposes drastic measures the details of which are out of place in an annual report.

112. *Model Schools*.—The Gosanimari Model School was done away with as a Model School, and ranks in the returns this year as a Middle Vernacular leaving 12 Model schools. Their statistics are given in the following table:—

No.	NAMES OF SCHOOL.	NUMBER OF STUDENTS.			EXPENDITURE.			REMARKS.
		No. of pupils on 31st March 1898.	Average daily attendance.	Monthly average.	State grant.	Local sources.	Total.	
1	Sudder Model	148	107	145	Rs. A. P. 1,089 14 9	Rs. A. P. 579 8 3	Rs. A. P. 1,489 7 0	
2	Balarampur "	80	60	70	248 8 0	133 11 0	372 0 0	
3	Baneswar "	64	30	45	307 3 0	64 13 0	372 0 0	
4	Barakodali "	67	35	50	272 13 0	99 3 0	372 0 0	
5	Chilaktana "	49	25	51	282 10 0	89 6 0	372 0 0	
6	Dewanhat "	51	34	47	305 13 0	66 4 0	372 0 0	
7	Gitaldaha "	57	39	51	286 13 0	53 3 0	372 0 0	
8	Chaugrabanda "	64	39	50	291 9 0	80 7 0	372 0 0	
9	Jangalbush "	51	30	41	306 11 0	63 8 0	372 0 0	
10	Khetty "	57	42	52	217 5 6	54 10 6	372 0 0	
11	Kesaribari "	61	47	64	313 0 0	59 0 0	372 0 0	
12	Shitalkhuchi "	67	40	61	333 1 0	73 15 0	312 0 0	
13	Gosanimari (up to May)	....	....	....	66 8 0	11 8 0	78 0 0	
	TOTAL	826	638	738	4,335 9 3	1,255 13 3	5,570 7 0	

113. *Sudder Model School*.—The number on the roll is 4 less than in the previous year, while the daily and the monthly average have gone down also by 5 and 7. The cost of the school was the same as in the previous year but the State contribution went up from Rs. 1,067 to Rs. 1,090 owing to the reduction

in collection of fees. The Inspector again urges that this institution should be converted into an Anglo-Vernacular school or that some normal school classes should be added to it. This may be possible if the Dinbata grant is reduced.

Examination results were bad, only 2 passing the Middle, and 4 the Upper Primary Examination out of 22 sent up, against 10 who passed the previous year out of 18 sent up. In extenuation, I must record that the school was entirely closed for 15 days after the earth-quake and that for another month the attendance was nominal. Again the flood of the first week of September caused irregularity of attendance just before the examination. Still results are poor.

114. *Model Schools in the interior.*—The question of the abolition of these schools, or the greater part of them, was pending when I joined my present post, and I deferred reporting on the subject till I had seen their working and could form an opinion as regards the probable effect of their abolition. The object in view in the proposed reduction was to admit of an increase to the grant for primary schools. The report was submitted during the year under review. I did not think it right to abolish more than one of these schools but recommended certain reductions in the scale of establishment of 7 of them which admitted of a transfer of Rs. 32 a month to Primary Education. Had I known that Your Highness was about to add Rs. 1,000 to the grant for Primary Education, I am not sure that I should have recommended even the above decrease. Omitting the figures for Gosanimari, the remaining 11 schools show 6 more boys on the roll at the close of the year and an increase of Rs. 21-5 in the fee collections during the year. The average attendance fell off by 13.

These schools sent up 48 candidates for the Middle Vernacular and Upper Primary examinations. Only 13 passed against 14 out of 38 in the previous year.

115. *Middle Vernacular Schools.*—The special schools are separated in this year's report. The number of the above class of schools stood at 19 for the last two years, and the number on the roll was 900 on the 31st of March. The average number enrolled was therefore 47-3, and the average attendance was 30-3. The largest school of this class at Par-Mekligunge has 131 pupils. The cost of these schools was Rs. 4,767 of which the State contributed Rs. 2,312 and local sources Rs. 2,455, besides houses and furniture.

The examination results were very poor, only 8 passing out of 45 sent up.

116. *Special Schools.*—The number went down from 5 to 4, the Dinbata girls' school having been transferred to the primary class. These 4 schools had 124 pupils on their rolls and a daily attendance of 95. They cost Rs. 1,127, of which Rs. 780 were paid from State funds and Rs. 347 from private sources, but this last includes private contributions from Your Highnesses and from the Duar office to the extent of Rs. 258, leaving Rs. 89 only as paid by general public. The Nagri school sent up one boy for the Lower Primary Examination who passed in the first class. The details regarding the Sunity College will be given under the heading of Girls' Schools.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

117. Before giving the statistics for the year, the Inspector of Schools points out, with pardonable pride, that, without any increase of funds, the number of schools under inspection has been raised from 217 to 261 and the number of pupils from 6399 to 7592 within the last 6 years. I think these general results justify us in hoping for a very substantial impulse to Primary Education from the increased grant of the current year.

The statistics of this class of schools are as follow:—

Class of schools.	No. of schools.	No. of students.		Expenditure.		
		Roll on 31st March 1896.	Average daily attendance.	State grant.	Local sources.	Total.
<i>Aided.</i>						
Upper Primary schools	28	941	570	1,763 0 0	1,066 0 0	2,819 0 0
Lower Primary schools	128	4,072	2,701	5,092 8 0	4,891 0 0	9,983 8 0
Night schools	15	812	225	434 0 0	110 6 0	544 6 0
Girls' schools	5	91	57	160 0 0	41 1 0	201 1 0
Total	174	5,416	3,553	7,449 8 0	6,098 7 0	13,547 15 0
<i>Un-aided.</i>						
Upper Primary schools	2	65	33	.....	24 0 0	24 0 0
Lower Primary schools	63	1,756	1,239	.....	1,596 12 0	1,596 12 0
Night schools	19	318	216	.....	94 4 0	94 4 0
Girls' schools	3	37	28	.....	.....	.....
Total	87	2,176	1,516	.....	1,715 0 0	1,715 0 0
GRAND TOTAL	261	7,592	5,069	7,449 8 0	7,813 7 0	15,262 15 0

The number of schools increased from 249 to 261 or by 12, of which one was aided and 11 unaided. The number on the rolls increased from 7515 to 7592 or by 77. The average attendance increased by only 4. The average number at each Upper Primary school was 35·7 against 36·1 and at each Lower 28·2 against 29·3.

The number of schools is much the same as last year but there have been great changes in details.

The grants of 23 of the aided schools shown in last year's report were withdrawn for inefficiency, and distributed among 24 unaided schools which had shewn good results.

Of the remaining 52 unaided schools, 23 ceased to exist owing to various causes. So that the figures now given, 87, show that 58 new schools have been started during the year, which is evidence of good work, especially when it is borne in mind how much labour had to be expended in keeping together the old schools. I trust that with the increased amount which can in future be distributed as rewards, unaided schools will spring up even more freely, and have longer lives.

The usual table of comparison with the neighbouring districts is given below:—

Districts.	Primary grant.	Number of boys of school-going age.	Number of boys at school.	Percentage of boys at school to boys of school-going age.	REMARKS.
Dinajpur	25,287	1,21,807	21,378	17·6	
Jalpaiguri	15,321	64,698	9,456	17·3	
Rajshahi	20,523	98,150	17,494	17·8	
Rangpur	35,490	1,59,271	24,602	15·5	
Cooch Behar	7,500	45,368	7,464	16·2	

118. *Upper Primary Schools.*—Two Upper Primary schools ceased to be aided, and their grants were transferred to Lower Primary schools. The number of unaided schools of this class was the same as last year. There were thus 28 schools against 30. The number on the roll went down by 78, due chiefly to the decrease in the number of the schools, but also to the decrease in the average number attending unaided schools which fell from 45 to 32.5. The expenditure fell from Rs. 3,377 to Rs. 2,848, of which the State paid Rs. 1,763 and the people Rs. 1,080. The falling off in local receipts, Rs. 280, is large but not unexpected.

The schools in the State sent up 128 boys for the Rajshahi Divisional Examination of whom 5 were absentees and 25 passed out of the remaining 123. This is only 20 per cent against 25 per cent in the previous year although the actual number passed is greater.

119. *Lower Primary Schools for boys.*—The number of this class of schools went up from 182 to 191, the increase of 9 being due to 3 aided and 6 unaided pathshalas. The number on the rolls increased from 5628 to 5828 or by 200 and the average daily attendance was 39.40 against 37.66. Considering the circumstances of the year, these results are good. The expenditure was Rs. 11,580 against Rs. 11,242 or an increase of Rs. 338. Of this, the State paid Rs. 5,092 and the people Rs. 6,488 against Rs. 4,866 and Rs. 6,376 in the previous year. The results of the Lower Primary Examination, held, as usual, at the Sudder, Mekligunj, and Dinbata, are given in the following statement :—

Centres of Examination.	1897.							1898.							REMARKS.
	No. of schools that sent up candidates.	No. of candidates.	NUMBER PASSED.				No. of absentees.	No. of schools that sent up candidates.	No. of candidates.	NUMBER PASSED.				No. of absentees.	
			1st Division.	2nd Division.	3rd Division.	Total.				1st Division.	2nd Division.	3rd Division.	Total.		
Sudder	46	82	17	14	...	31	3	53	89	23	14	...	37	9	
Dinbata	50	96	38	19	...	57	6	57	111	19	25	...	44	12	
Mokligunj	32	88	17	24	...	41	4	39	93	29	19	...	48	3	
Total	128	266	72	57	...	129	13	148	293	71	58	...	129	24	

From the above it will be seen that 293 candidates were sent up by 148 schools against 266 from 128 schools in the previous year. The number passed is the same, 129, so that results are not so good, though on the whole fair. Small rewards were given to successful candidates and their Gurus and this system will be considerably extended this year. The Inspector anticipates good results from this.

120. *Night Schools.*—There is a decrease of four schools, 2 aided and 2 un-aided. The grants of the 2 first were transferred to good pathshalas as the night schools were doing no good. Two un-aided schools ceased to exist owing to the circumstances of the year. The number on the rolls went down from 725 to 630 and the daily average from 500 to 441.

The expenditure was Rs. 639 against Rs. 663 and the State grant fell from Rs. 482 to Rs. 434 while the fees rose from Rs. 181 to Rs. 205. These schools sent up 25 candidates for examination of whom 24 appeared and 12 passed, 10 in the first division, two in the second. This is not up to the previous year's standard, but is in itself not bad.

121. *Girls' Schools.*—Owing to one new school being given a grant during the year and to the Dinbata school being reduced to the primary grade, the number of aided Girls schools rose from 3 to 5, and, as the number of un-aided schools of this class rose from 2 to 3, the total became 8, making, with the Sunity College

9 institutions for the education of girls solely. Besides the girls so educated a few read in the ordinary pathshalas with the boys.

In the primary girls' schools there were 128 on the rolls against 78 of the previous year and the daily attendance rose from 54 to 85. The number in the Sunity College however decreased, and the total number of girls receiving education was 216 against 213. The cost to the State of the lower class schools was Rs. 160 and the people paid Rs. 141. The total expenditure on all schools was Rs. 1072, of which the State paid Rs. 820 and Rs. 252 were contributed from other sources.

No girl went up for any scholarship examination, as the two who were fit to go up from the Sunity College were married, and the six who were ready to go up from other schools failed to appear for the reason given in paragraph 109. I cannot say that I am sanguine about the prospects of female education in the State, as no girl reads long enough to get more than a smattering of education.

122. *Mahomedan Education.*—Two special schools submit returns, but the great bulk of the Mahomedans attend the ordinary schools of the State as appears from the next paragraph.

123. *Social Position and Religion.*—The following table gives statistics:—

Class of Schools.	RELIGION.				SOCIAL POSITION.				REMARKS.
	Hindus.	Mahomedans	Others.	Total.	Upper class.	Middle class.	Lower class.	Total.	
Higher class English ...	269	69	0	338	41	228	69	338	
Middle class English ...	143	148	0	291	8	192	91	291	
Middle class Vernacular ...	1,274	570	6	1,850	103	827	920	1,850	
Total ...	1,686	787	6	2,479	152	1,247	1,080	2,479	
PRIMARY SCHOOLS.									
Upper Primary Schools ...	698	235	13	1,006	5	388	613	1,006	
Lower Primary Schools ...	3,941	1,802	85	5,828	41	1,312	4,475	5,828	
Night ...	413	212	5	630	.....	96	534	630	
Girls' ...	86	42	.....	128	.....	61	63	128	
Indigenous ...	37	15	0	52	.....	12	40	52	
Muktabs ...	.....	63	.....	63	.....	22	41	63	
Total ...	5,175	2,429	103	7,707	50	1,891	5,766	7,707	
Grand Total ...	6,861	3,216	109	10,186	203	3,138	6,846	10,186	

From the above it will be seen that while the number of Hindoos has fallen off by 179 and others by 97, the number of Mahomedans has increased by 260. The proportion of Mahomedans in the State is a little less than $\frac{1}{3}$, so that they are just as keen for education as their fellow countrymen who are Hindoos.

124. *Expenditure on Primary and Secondary Education.*—The State paid Rs. 20,861 against Rs. 20,805 in the previous year showing a small increase of Rs. 56. The people paid Rs. 18,236 against Rs. 18,598 or a decrease of Rs. 362. The conditions of the year account for this decrease, and I am astonished it is not greater.

The cost of inspection and control fell from Rs. 6,104 to Rs. 5,885 owing to the travelling allowance of these officers being met from the Famine Fund in the month of May. The following table shows a net decrease of Rs. 187 in the total expenditure. The items call for no remark.

Head of Expenditure.	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.				REMARKS.
	Pay actually drawn.	Travelling allowance drawn.	Peon and contingent allowance drawn.	Total.	
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Inspector of Schools ...	2,100 0 0	828 2 0	.....	2,928 2 0	
Dy. Inspector of do. ...	980 0 0	581 8 0	84 0 0	1,575 8 0	
Circle Pundits ...	720 0 0	.....	48 0 0	768 0 0	
Office Establishment...	384 0 0	.....	233 15 6	617 15 6	
Total ...	4,164 0 0	1,854 10 0	365 15 6	5,884 9 6	
Rewards to Gurus ...	...	...	...	300 0 0	
Miscellaneous charges*	...	...	...	188 8 0	Maps... 78 0 Atlas... 22 8
Nagri School house ...	...	...	...	100 0 0	Benches for the Bhuluchi s. 20 0 Chairs for Model schools 80 0 Wool for Sanitary colleges. 48 0
Scholarships ...	...	...	...	861 8 6	
Charges incurred by the State for maintenance of schools	...	...	...	20,861 1 9	108 8
TOTAL	...	...	...	28,195 6 9	

125. *Inspection*—The following table shows the amount of inspection done by the different officers:—

Name.	Designation.	Circle.	No of schools under inspection.	No. of visits paid.	No. of miles travelled.	Amount of travelling allowance drawn.
Babu Bhuvan Mohan Dutt...	Inspector of Schools	.....	310	343	2,227	Rs. A. P. 843 2 0
„ Bhagabati Charan Banerjee	Dy. Inspector	Mekligunj..	126	371	2,365	531 8 0
„ Raj Kumar Sen	Circle Pandit	Sudder.	96	213	.....	.....
„ Shiva Prosad Gope	Circle Pandit	Dinhata ...	80	263	.....	.....

Besides the above, the Inspector travelled 331 miles on Famine duty.

The Staff all worked well and did much good departmental work in a trying year. They also aided in Famine work, and their work was fully acknowledged by Your Highness in Council.

126. *Conduct of officers*—I cannot write more strongly than I did last year regarding the good work done by Babu Bhuvan Mohan Dutt, Inspector of schools. His whole heart is in his work, and he performs it with unfailing tact and energy. The Deputy Inspector and the Circle Pundits have all three worked satisfactorily, particularly the first.

VICTORIA COLLEGE.

127. *Number on the roll*.—The number on the roll on the 31st of March was 112 against 106. The average monthly number on the roll has however gone down from 140 to 128. The admissions at the beginning of the year were affected by the stoppage of communication caused by the earth-quake. The Principal considers the outlook on the whole more promising than it was last year. There were

also fewer "plucked" candidates admitted. The average daily attendance was 93 out of 128 as against 89 out of 140 last year. The admissions were 106 against 127, of whom 76 were to the 1st, 3rd, and 5th year classes and 80, only to the 2nd and 4th year classes. These last represent the "plucked," and the Principal points out that these represent less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total of new admissions and that the number of successful candidates was only 5 less than in the previous year. Owing to the earth-quake the College did not reopen till the 8th of July, and railway communication was only opened on the 10th of that month so that largest attendance was in August in the year under report.

The numbers in July and August were 181 and 170 in the previous year and 142 and 146 in the year under report. The distribution for August was as follows as compared with July, 1896.

	August 1897.	July 1896.
1st year class	46	51
2nd "	44	59
3rd "	23	24
4th "	31	42
5th "	2	5

In fact, as the Principal puts it, if fewer joined, more stayed, and there was less fluctuation during the year.

128.—*Establishment*.—There was no change in the gazetted staff during the year. A second clerk was added to the clerical staff as one was unable to cope with the work.

129.—*Expenditure*.—The cost of the College was Rs. 20,377-2-9 as shown below:—

Average monthly number.	EXPENDITURE.						RECEIPTS.		Approximate cost of educating each student.
	Establishment.	Contingencies (a).	Library allowance.	Gymnasium.	Furniture.	Total.	Transfer fees and fines.	State grant.	
128	18,302 1 9	235 6 5	999 9 7	111 10 9	728 6 3	20,377 2 9	(b) 88 0 0	30,299 2 9	158 8 0

(a.) This includes punkha pulling charges, but excludes stationery supplied from the State Council.

(b.) Exclusive of the sale proceeds of broken furniture (Rs. 11-7-6.)

The increase, Rs. 2,071, is due to periodical increment in the pay of the staff and to the increased expenditure for furniture caused by the earth-quake. The cost of educating each student rose from Rs. 129-13-3 to Rs. 158-8 owing to the increased expenditure and the smaller number of students.

130. *Library and Laboratory*.—Your Highness decided last year that the sum of Rs. 1,000, which had for many years been granted from the heading "unforeseen," should be shown in its proper place in the College budget. This sum was expended as follows:—

			Rs.	A.	P.
Books	...	...	512	2	0
Scientific apparatus and chemicals	...	...	398	7	0
Librarian's pay	...	...	59	5	7
Book-binding	...	...	99	11	0
Total	...	...	999	9	7

Many books were injured by the earth-quake; some were rebound in the year under report, and more will be bound this year. A few books were also destroyed. Happily the laboratory and its apparatus escaped serious injury.

131. *Law Classes.*—The working of these classes is shown in the statement below :—

No. on the roll on the 31st March 1899.	Average No. monthly on the roll.	Average No. daily present.	Income from fees &c.	State grant.	Total.	Expenditure for Law Professor's pay.	Cost of educating each student per annum.	Amount met by the State.
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
14	16	11.43	687 0 0	273 0 0	960 0 0	960 0 0	60 0 0	17 1 0

Fees were raised to Rs. 3; hence the receipts are higher than last year, but the classes are not self-supporting, and will not be so until the number enrolled increases. The expenditure of the year is normal and cannot be compared with that of last year when it was much below normal, owing to the post of Law-Lecturer being vacant for some time.

132. *University Examinations.*—The College sent up 25 candidates for the F.A. Examination after a test examination in which several candidates were rejected, and 31 for the B.A. examination. In the First Arts Examination 5 have passed in the second division and 13 in the third division, or 72 per cent. In the B.A. examination 13 have passed against 8 of last year but none have obtained Honors. Considering the difficulties of the year and the curtailment of the length of the session, the result is very good comparing favourably, as it does, with most of the Colleges in Bengal. Two students appeared from the Victoria College in the M.A. examination in English and failed. The Principal reports that one was "hopelessly deficient" and that the other, though strong in Mathematics and Science, was weak in English which he was obliged to take up owing to the want of suitable provision for teaching science up to the M.A. standard.

Eight candidates went up for the B.L. Examination of whom three passed in the 2nd division.

133.—*Caste distribution.*—The students on the roll on the 31st of March belonged to the following castes.

Brahmin ...	...	...	...	49
Baidya ...	...	...	...	9
Kayastha ..	...	...	...	47
Rajguns ...	...	...	...	1
Khetria ...	...	...	...	1
Rajbangshi ...	...	...	...	2
Brahmo ...	...	...	...	1
Mahomedan ...	...	...	...	2
Total				112

Of the above, 7 were natives of the State *vis.*, 1 Rajgun, 2 Rajbangshies, 2 Brahmins, 1 Kayastha and 1 Mahomedan. The bulk of the students come from the three northern districts of the Dacca Division, Pubna, Jessore and the 24 Pergunnahs.

134.—*The Earthquake.*—One of the two main buildings occupied by the College was entirely destroyed, and the other very badly damaged. The College and School were moved to Your Highness' stables which were hastily fitted up for the purpose, and work began after the summer vacation on the 8th of July; two weeks later than the proper date. The principal complains of the serious inconveniences caused by this arrangement, particularly in the rains, and of the disorganization of studies, and urges that early measures may be taken to provide more suitable accommodation. I hope that a beginning may be made in 1899-1900 but see no hope before then.

135.—*Discipline and moral training.*—The Principal reports that discipline was well maintained. One boy of the first year's class was expelled for gross insubordination, and a boy who supported him was suspended and severely punished. This has had a good effect. The Principal remarks that he seldom has any difficulty except with boys fresh from school, and in their first year at College. The Student's Association held 36 ordinary and one special meeting to collect funds for the distressed people of Chittagong. The meetings were not well

attended in the early part of the session, but, greatly owing to the efforts of the Professor of Philosophy (who presided at 7 of the meetings), there was great improvement towards the end of the Session. The reading room suffered considerably owing to the earth-quake but on the whole the Principal is satisfied that there has been progress however slow.

136.—*Physical Education*.—The number on the roll of the Gymnastic class went down from 95 to 89, of whom 48 belonged to the College and 41 to the School. The decrease is not to be wondered at, as the Gymnasium site, which was quite close to the old College site and fairly near the old School site, is far away from the palace. For various reasons it has been thought best not to move the Gymnasium, at least until a new site is fixed for the College. Application has been made for new apparatus for the Gymnasium. The cricket and foot-ball Club numbered 95 members. Foot-ball is specially popular and has been encouraged by Your Highness.

136.—*Character of the Officers*.—The Principal speaks highly of the conduct of the Professors. The year has been a very trying one for them. They have had to teach under difficulties caused by the earth-quake, and the personal discomfort has not been small. Better arrangements could not be made and they have recognized this, and have done all possible to prevent the status of the College from suffering. The brunt of the work, including the administration arrangements, necessarily fell in the Principal and it is to him that the good results of the year must be mainly credited. He has raised the tone of the College in every respect at least as much as he has improved its educational status and he is unremitting in working for its improvements.

THE JENKINS' SCHOOL.

137.—*Numerical Strength*.—The number on the roll on the 31st of March was 257 or 23 less than the previous year. Of these 231 were Hindus, 20 Mahomedans, 4 Brahmos and 2 Christians. Of the above 54, or 21 per cent, were natives of the State, against 62, or 22.1 per cent, last year. The falling off of foreigners (15) is chiefly due to the fact that when the school reopened after the earth-quake, there was no railway communication, and this prevented many of the Bengali students from rejoining. The falling off of 8 natives of the State must, I fear, be ascribed to the want of any desire for higher education in the State. The number of paying students was 201 and of non-paying 56, against, 220 and 60 of last year. The average daily attendance was 202.35 against 212.83.

138.—*Income and expenditure*.—The income was Rs. 4,260-0-6 against Rs. 4361-3, or a decrease of Rs. 101-2-6 due to the decrease in the number of paying pupils. The expenditure was Rs. 9,961-1-3 or Rs. 30-3-7 less than in the previous year. The cost of the school to the State was therefore Rs. 5701-0-9 or Rs. 70-14-11 more than in the previous year.

139.—*Establishment*.—As stated in last year's report, the staff was reduced by one English teacher, and it now is, 10 English teachers, 2 Pundits, 1 Persian teacher and 1 Gymnastic teacher, or 14 in all. The 3rd Master, Babu Prosanna Chundra Ganguli, died near the close of the year and the fourth master, Babu Priya Bhusan Ray B.A., was given the post. Babu Abinash Chandra Mukerjee B.A., was appointed 4th master. This was the only permanent change during the year.

140.—*University Examination*.—Out of the 20 students in the 1st class, 16 went up for the Entrance Examination, and 15 passed, 6 being placed in the first, 5 in the second and 2 in the third division. The result is very good, the large number in the two first divisions more than making up for the reduction of one passed candidate. The difficulties of the year have also to be taken into consideration.

141.—*Discipline*.—In the school discipline was maintained, but some of the students behaved badly outside and had to be punished.

142.—*Prizes*.—Your Highness again presided at the distribution of prizes after the close of the year.

143.—*Conduct of the Staff*.—The Principal speaks very highly of the Head Master both as regards teaching and administration. He had many difficulties to contend with in connection with the removal of the school, and he had to depend largely on his own resources in dealing with these. The teaching work is proved to be good by the results of the Entrance Examination.

BOARDING INSTITUTIONS.

144.—*The College Boarding Institution*.—This institution is conducted on the same lines as before. It is self-supporting, the state only giving a grant of Rs. 25 a month, of which Rs. 15 are paid to the Manager. The number on the roll at the end of the year was 55 against 46, but the average monthly number was 57.9 in both years. The health of the Boarders was fair but there were some cases of fever in March. None were serious. The receipts including the balance in hand were Rs. 3,491-10-0, and the expenditure Rs. 3,415-4-6, leaving a balance of Rs. 76-5-6. This is a useful institution in a place where so many of the students are foreigners, securing, as it does, some supervision over the inmates when out of School or College. Two Boarders were forced to leave, and one was expelled during the year.

145.—*The Rajgun Boarding Institution*.—The boys who are fortunate enough to get into this institution get free education and board, as they pay no school fees, and the State pays Rs. 6 a month for their board. The following table shows the amount sanctioned and the amount drawn during the year.

Item No.	Particulars.	Amount sanctioned for the year. 1897-98.	Amount drawn during the year. 1897-98.	REMARKS.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1	ESTABLISHMENT—			
	Tutor @ Rs. 50 ... 600	.....	.....
	Assistant tutor @ Rs. 25 800	.....	.....
	Two Cooks @ Rs. 11 182	.....	.....
	Two servants @ Rs. 8 96	.....	.....
	Mehter @ Rs. 3 ... 36			
		1,164 0 0	1,136 7 5	Saving of Rs. 27-8-7.
2	Stipend for 30 boarders @ Rs. 6	2,136 0 0	1,496 18 0	Saving of Rs. 639-3-0.
3	Stationery	60 0 0	.....	Articles being supplied direct from the Council office, this office can not ascertain the value. The old grant is shown.
4	Contingencies. Sundries ...	30 0 0	4 12 0 ^(a)	Saving Rs. 25-4-0.
5	Clothing and bedding ...	175 0 0	100 0 0	Saving Rs. 75-0-0.
6	Books	100 0 0	98 9 6	Ditto „ 1-6-6.
7	Repairs and purchase of tools ...	25 0 0	0 10 0	Ditto „ 24-6-0
8	House allowance for the Assistant Tutor @ Rs. 4.	48 0 0	48 0 0	
	Total ..	3,738 0 0	2,885 3 11	Saving Rs. 792-12-1.

The number of Boarders on the roll at the close of the year was 27 against 28 in the previous year and the average number of Boarders was 26.4 against 26.8. Two Boarders were admitted during the year but one of these is a special case. He is a minor under the Court of Wards and the Court pays for his board. Three were struck off the roll for unsatisfactory progress and misconduct. The health of the inmates was good. The Principal reports well of the Tutor and Assistant Tutor.

146.—*Special Grants*.—Your Highness was pleased during the year to give two special grants to improve the food of the Boarders of the two institutions during the year. The total thus given was Rs. 146-8-0, of which Rs. 84-8-0 were allotted to the College Boarding, and Rs. 62 to the Rajgun Boarding Institution. These grants are not included in the accounts as they did not come from educational funds.

MEDICAL.

147. *Charge.*—The report is submitted by Dr. Kumar Bhabendra Narayan, Officiating Civil Surgeon, but he only took charge on the 5th of March 1898. His predecessor Dr. D. D. Gupta took pension towards the close of the year, but agreed to continue to work until relieved. His health, however, broke down and he had to make over charge on the 17th of February to the Assistant Surgeon who remained in charge until relieved on the above date. Your Highness had arranged that Surgeon Captain C. B. Prall from the 36th Sikhs should succeed Dr. Gupta, and his transfer was sanctioned by the Government of India, but he was attacked by enteric fever and invalided home, and the Bengal Government very kindly lent the services of Dr. Kumar Bhabendra Narayan to the State until Dr. Prall's return. The present Officiating Civil Surgeon is the first native of the State who has held this appointment.

148. *General Health and Vital Statistics.*—The year was very decidedly less healthy than the preceding one. In that year there was an unprecedentedly low rain-fall which reduced the fever rate, and there was no great epidemic. In the year under report the total rain-fall was somewhat below the average, but it was very high in September and October thus prolonging the period of high saturation, and fevers accordingly increased, and there was also a severe cholera epidemic. Dr. Narayan points out that the fever cases treated in the Dispensaries rose from 3918 to 5432, while the cholera mortality was 763 against 365. He attributes the increased sickness greatly to the effect of the scarcity, which lowered the vitality of the people and thus predisposed them to disease.

The result of the registration of births and deaths in the town of Cooch Behar has been satisfactory, and the Council have decided to go on with the present system, for the present any how. During the year 460 deaths were registered which is 40 per mille, the population of the town being 11,491. The number of births was 212 or 18·5 per mille, but it must be borne in mind that out of the above total population, only 4074 are women, hence the birth rate must necessarily be low.

PREVAILING DISEASES.

149. *Cholera.*—There was a very severe out-break of cholera in the months of September and October. As above stated, the total mortality from this cause rose to 763, or more than double that of the previous year. The town registration returns show that the total number of deaths from cholera was 96 in September, 75 in October and one each in April and November or 173 in all. A little over 37 per cent of the whole of the mortality of the town thus took place in these two months from cholera alone.

In the State generally, the distribution of deaths is given in paragraph 50. Special steps were taken to drive away the disease from the town both by the use of disinfectants and by improving the water supply.

The Civil Surgeon states that his predecessor has left him no notes regarding the cause or origin of the out-break. It occurred immediately after the great flood of the first week of September. August had been a comparatively dry month, the rain-fall being over $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches under the average and the country was drying quickly. Then came the floods of September and an excess rain-fall of 13 inches, raising the subsoil water level and retarding the usual drying process. This may have brought on the epidemic.

Small-pox.—Not a single case of Small-pox took place during the year.

Fever.—The high water level had its natural effect and the year was as above remarked a very feverish one. I fancy the people at large prefer a year like the last, with fever but also with good crops, to one like the previous year, with little fever and scanty crops.

150. *Rain-fall.*—The rain-fall table annexed is brought up to date. The total fall was 11·67 inches under the average, but it was so well distributed in the months that affect the crops that the year was one of most abundant harvests both early and late. But for the excessive rain-fall of September the year would have been nearly 25 inches short of the average and yet the crops would have been good, for the excessive September rain did more harm than good.

RAIN FALL.

Month.	1877-78.	1878-79.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	Total.	Average.	
April	...	6-26	1-45	7-36	2-10	3-29	6-99	6-08	4-15	1-42	4-50	8-20	2-25	10-45	4-84	4-10	12-42	15-72	5-18	4-80	1-86	119-99	5-71	
May	...	21-02	26-43	7-68	18-56	5-26	14-59	27-15	12-48	11-50	17-64	11-63	10-60	7-07	15-93	46-22	7-20	16-20	13-64	18-18	23-39	346-17	16-49	
June	...	8-69	67-34	49-43	20-55	34-59	25-89	40-29	44-81	23-98	54-25	33-09	27-79	47-90	20-23	29-39	23-10	27-00	13-06	5-44	14-65	651-10	31-00	
July	...	26-61	34-50	51-32	26-41	15-60	10-87	22-20	18-28	30-33	13-84	21-90	41-47	29-58	27-37	41-05	40-13	6-88	56-16	26-37	23-98	563-65	26-84	
August	...	9-52	26-45	20-79	19-48	15-47	33-40	34-90	20-89	18-28	21-14	21-31	14-38	46-70	45-52	8-02	39-97	17-89	18-36	15-90	5-83	13-33	461-33	21-96
September	...	36-99	44-97	16-44	7-10	33-89	28-32	28-72	7-04	18-69	32-19	17-52	8-14	16-19	29-86	10-87	12-70	20-00	35-31	14-06	21-21	35-90	481-11	22-90
October	...	0-73	1-20	5-05	7-14	3-26	16-69	0-20	13-94	8-71	4-64	2-48	1-56	2-50	12-49	1-76	0-33	7-22	10-84	1-51	0-85	6-81	104-91	4-99
November	0-41	0-40	...	1-60	0-40	1-20	0-26	0-06	4-32	0-20
December	...	0-10	...	0-12	1-11	...	...	...	0-32	0-15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0-07	...	0-05	...	1-92	0-09
January	...	0-09	...	0-31	...	0-18	0-33	0-67	...	1-45	0-23	2-62	0-55	0-18	...	0-53	...	...	0-43	...	0-22	7-79	0-37
February	0-48	0-98	0-18	0-02	0-25	...	0-07	0-15	0-14	2-55	...	1-89	0-40	0-83	0-17	0-03	...	0-26	0-99	10-29	0-49	
March	...	0-75	...	3-11	4-71	2-22	...	4-42	1-33	4-56	3-89	0-15	0-13	2-67	1-27	2-85	0-24	0-36	...	2-45	0-11	39-16	1-86	
Total	...	106-79	194-13	146-94	130-80	117-47	133-03	138-01	138-74	134-70	120-36	135-80	106-82	148-58	187-41	90-71	179-17	127-63	130-77	119-94	85-44	121-29	2792-00	133-96

151. *Vaccination*—The number vaccinated has slightly increased. The cost of each operation, 9-91 pies, is practically the same as last year (9-89 pies). The percentage of success is given as 88-88.

TABLE A.

Total vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	15,031
Males	...	...	...	...	...	7,328
Females	...	...	...	...	...	7,095
Christians	...	...	...	...	...	9,848
Hindoos	...	...	...	...	...	4,896
Mahomedans	...	...	...	...	...	277
Other castes	...	...	...	...	...	5,546
Under one year	...	...	...	...	...	9,475
Above one year	...	...	...	...	...	5,902
SUCCESSFUL	Out of 4 points	4	...	...	...	1,870
		3	...	...	...	855
		2	...	...	...	878
		1	...	...	...	4,228
	Out of 2 points	2	...	...	...	638
Unsuccessful	...	...	...	...	...	163
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1,507
Total successful excluding the unknown	...	...	...	...	...	13,351
Percentage	...	...	...	...	...	88-88

152. *Dispensaries and Hospitals*.—There was no change in the number of these institutions during the year. The Sudder Hospital building suffered severely from the earth-quake, and one in-patient was killed by the fall of the verandah. The hospital was removed to the Police Hospital building which is necessarily small and inconvenient. The old building is now under repair and will soon be fit for occupation. The work of the year has therefore been carried on under disadvantages. The construction of servants' quarters has also been sanctioned, and when complete the working of the Hospital will be much facilitated. The dispensaries in the Moffussil are all Kutchha buildings but it has been decided to gradually substitute houses with corrugated iron roofs, beginning with Mekligunge, where also the earth-quake caused considerable damage. The Civil Surgeon also complains of want of room in the Dinhatra building. He goes on to say "The number of dispensaries in the State is too few compared with the Government districts, consequently the Medical relief here is inadequate." He next deplores the want of public spirit of the local zemindars in not having opened dispensaries as has been done by the big zemindars in Bengal, and until such dispensaries are established he advocates the institution of a travelling dispensary in charge of the supernumerary Native Doctor. I shall be glad to see any of the larger jotedars adopt the suggestion of the Civil Surgeon and start a dispensary in imitation of the zemindars of Bengal, but I cannot allow the first assertion to pass unchallenged. Such assertions if un-noticed are apt in time to be accepted as facts and it would be unfair to Your Highness' administration, were I to allow the assertion to remain uncontradicted. The facts are very simple. Bengal has an area of 1,51,535 square miles and a population of 71,346,787. Cooch Behar has an area of 1307 square miles and a population of 578,868. I have the Dispensary statistics of Bengal only up to 1895-96 but the variation since then cannot be material. In that year, including the great Calcutta Hospitals, there were 445 hospitals and dispensaries in Bengal (Bengal Administration Report for 1895-96, page cc xlii) or one to 340.5 square miles, while in Cooch Behar there are 6 dispensaries or one to 218 square miles. In Bengal there was one Dispensary to each 160,330 of population. In Cooch Behar there is one to every 96,478 of population. The number aided in Bengal was 2,77,491 persons, in Cooch Behar it is 19,220. The proportionate number would be 22,511, but this only shows that with more Dispensaries, nearer their doors, the people of Cooch Behar fail to take quite as much advantage of them as the people of Bengal. The earth-quake also affected the number treated. The Government of Bengal spent Rs. 5,05,420 on Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums, but the bulk of that money was expended on the big hospitals in and near Calcutta, Rs. 92,286 only being expended on 430 Moffussil institutions,

while local sources contributed Rs. 8,81,564. Here, with the exception of Rs. 36 a month contributed at Haldibari, the State bears the whole cost. Far from comparing badly with Bengal, Your Highness' State compares well in whatever way the comparison be made except in contributions from local sources.

In addition to the suggestion above referred to of a travelling dispensary, the Civil Surgeon recommends that the sanitary staff of the town be placed under his direct control, that an elementary medical class be opened in the Sudder hospital and certificates be granted to those who do best in an examination, and that a lady Doctor be maintained in place of the Midwife. This last proposal has already been sent up and is under consideration. The Civil Surgeon has been asked to submit the others separately, but I have told him that I am opposed to arming half educated men with any State certificate.

152. *Hospital statistics.*—The number of in and out patients in the different hospitals together with the usual statistics is given in the following statements B. to I.

TABLE B.

HOSPITALS.				In-patients.	Out-patients.	Total.	Average daily number of In-patients.	Average daily number of Out-patients.
1897-98.								
Sudder Dispensary	...	...	...	457	5,988	6,445	18.56	41.73
Dinhata	"	...	...	112	2,364	2,476	3.98	16.67
Mathabhanga	"	...	...	98	2,271	2,369	2.30	17.23
Mekligunj	"	...	...	51	2,375	2,426	1.71	12.26
Haldibari	"	...	...	.....	2,378	2,378	.....	17.90
Phulbari	"	...	...	.....	1,527	1,527	.....	8.04
State Jail	"	...	...	214	.....	214	5.12	.....
Police and Military Hospital	...	...	...	610	.....	610	16.49	.....
Philkhana and Stables	...	...	...	.....	756	756	.....	11.39
Total				1,542	17,659	19,204	48.16	121.41
1896-97.								
Sudder Dispensary	...	...	...	372	7,457	7,829	18.02	52.60
Dinhata	"	...	...	115	2,690	2,805	3.73	23.71
Mathabhanga	"	...	...	78	2,191	2,269	1.89	17.06
Mekligunj	"	...	...	37	2,152	2,189	1.17	10.48
Haldibari	"	...	...	.....	2,238	2,238	.....	15.21
Phulbari	"	...	...	.....	2,061	2,061	.....	10.90
State Jail	"	...	...	176	.....	176	4.67	.....
Police and Military Hospital	...	...	...	433	.....	433	11.75	.....
Philkhana and Stables	...	...	...	.....	451	451	.....	8.25
Total				1,214	19,220	21,434	41.26	138.21

TABLE D.

1. Ascitis	Paracentesis abdominis	Improved
2. Nierosis	Amputation of arm	Cured
3. Hepatic abscess	Opened by free incision	Left hospital before recovery
4. Ascitis	Paracentesis abdominis	Improved
5. Hæm abscess	Opened	Cured
6. Big abscess of knee	ditto.	ditto.
7. Ditto of Elbow	ditto.	ditto.
8. Suppurative hydrocele	ditto.	ditto.
9. Deep abscess of neck	ditto.	ditto.
10. Gluteal abscess	ditto.	ditto.
11. Corneal ulcer with hypopion	Corneal Section	Left hospital before recovery.
12. Cataract	Extraction of lens	Partial improvement of sight.

TABLE E.

NAME OF DISEASE.	SUDDER DISPENSARY.		DINKATA DISPENSARY.		MATHABHANGA DISPENSARY.		MUKLIGUJ DISPENSARY.		TOTAL NOS. OF CASES TREATED IN THE DISPENSARIES.		
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Percentage of deaths.
Malarious fever, ague and remittent.	91	14	33	3	40	...	10	1	174	17	9.77
Cholera ...	29	19	...	...	...	...	2	...	31	19	51.61
Anæmia ...	1	...	6	4	...	...	...	...	9	4	44.44
Phthisis ...	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	75.00
Dropsy ...	19	7	4	3	2	...	8	3	28	13	46.42
Ophthalmia ...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	50.00
Respiratory affections ...	16	6	3	...	4	1	1	...	26	7	26.92
Dysentery ...	78	39	6	1	1	...	...	...	85	40	47.05
Diarrhoea ...	16	7	4	1	6	...	1	...	27	9	33.33
Spleen ...	20	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	24	6	25.00
Ulcer ...	59	3	7	1	8	...	2	...	71	4	5.63
Other local diseases ...	41	8	4	...	5	...	...	...	50	3	6.00
Debility and old age ...	5	2	4	2	...	...	1	...	10	4	40.00
Injuries ...	34	3	28	1	33	1	23	...	118	5	4.23
Total ...	417	113	106	16	94	3	43	4	659	135	20.04

TABLE F.

	Males.		Females.		Children.		Mahomedans.		Hindoo.		Burmese.		Other castes.		Europeans.	
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.
In-door	86-61	89-13	9-75	7-93	9-63	9-92	37-10	31-08	73-09	73-00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Out-door	73-40	74-21	9-16	9-46	10-43	10-43	20-17	26-31	73-16	73-27	0-23	0-13	0-33	0-26	.....	0-04
Total	159-01	163-34	18-91	17-39	20-06	19-35	57-27	57-39	146-25	146-27	0-23	0-13	0-33	0-26	.....	0-04

TABLE G.
Financial Statement.

Dispensaries	Establishment.	Contingent charges.	Travelling allowance.	Postage.	Dist.	Clothing and bedding.	Furniture.	Disposal of the dead.	Total expenditure.	Cost of each dist.	Cost of material purchased and distributed to other.	Prescription fee.	Sale of medicines.
	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.
Sudder	3,958 4 0	602 14 9	16 0 0	.....	1,006 10 9	36 3 0	0 5 6	88 0 0	5,708 5 3	0 2 450	3,179 0 0	267 11 3	156 9 3
Dinhata	996 0 0	81 7 9	18 6 0	4 12 0	192 5 0	22 11 3	.....	12 0 0	1,827 10 0	0 2 1 41	.....	.....	53 14 6
Mathabhanga	1,128 0 0	37 8 0	9 10 0	4 10 0	93 0 6	.....	.....	1 8 0	1,274 4 6	0 1 9 18	.....	.....	188 14 3
Mekligunj	755 0 0	91 15 6	33 8 6	3 8 3	98 9 11	19 2 0	.....	5 0 0	1,007 12 2	0 3 2 26	.....	.....	6 11 0
Haldibari	1,068 0 0	20 10 0	.....	2 7 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	101 1 6	.....	.....	.....	55 4 0
Phulbari	588 0 0	78 12 9	4 8 0	1 14 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	673 2 9	.....	.....	.....	18 1 3
Sudder	3,789 0 9	135 10 5	.....	.....	876 6 9	80 5 3	.....	40 0 0	5,421 7 2	0 2 1 58	2,860 6 9	185 14 0	90 0 9
Dinhata	980 9 10	58 7 3	11 2 0	5 9 9	175 8 7	11 10 6	.....	4 9 0	1,239 3 2	0 2 1 77	.....	.....	26 10 6
Mathabhanga	1,116 0 0	47 2 0	20 6 0	4 15 3	46 7 6	.....	.....	3 8 0	1,243 4 9	0 1 0 89	.....	.....	207 8 3
Mekligunj	751 0 0	82 9 3	61 7 9	3 12 3	88 2 0	.....	.....	4 0 0	990 15 3	0 3 0	.....	.....	5 7 0
Haldibari	1,068 0 0	27 1 0	11 12 0	1 14 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,108 11 0	.....	.....	.....	72 5 0
Phulbari	588 0 0	48 15 6	1 14 0	0 10 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	637 7 6	.....	.....	.....	18 11 3

1897-98.

1896-97.

TABLE H.

	1896-97.	1897-98.
1. Average population of the Sudder Jail. 2.	92.52	94.14
2. Admissions on account of sickness	169	214
3. Average sick	4.67	5.12
4. Percentage of admissions to population	182.66	227
5. Average sick per centage of average population	5.04	5.68
6. Deaths	2	9
7. Percentage of deaths	1.18	4.2

TABLE I.

YEAR.	POLICE.				MILITARY.			
	Daily average of strength.	PERCENTAGE OF STRENGTH.			Daily average strength.	PERCENTAGE OF STRENGTH.		
		Admissions.	Deaths.	Daily sick.		Admissions.	Deaths.	Daily sick.
1897-98	323.10	82.94	0.30	7.44	193	176.16	.....	9.05
1896-97	299.16	62.17	0.53	6.86	193	127.97	0.80	4.92

154. *Sudder Hospital and Dispensary.*—In spite of the inferior nature of the accommodation, the number of in-patients in the Sudder Hospital rose from 372 to 457. This may be ascribed to the unhealthiness of the year. The number of out-patients fell from 7457 to 5988 and the decrease is incapable of explanation. In two years the number has gone down from 8213 to 5988 or by 2225. Last year the absence of disease was held to be the reason, but the year under report was far from healthy. I fear that unpopularity must be admitted as the only cause.

The number of operations went down from 318 to 279 and of these 12 only, against 44, were major. There was no death after operation.

The death rate was very heavy, there being 112 deaths or 24.5 per cent against 65 or 17.47 per cent in the previous year. The greatest number of deaths was due to dysentery, a number of moribund cases having been sent to hospital. There were also 19 deaths from cholera.

Rs. 156-9-3 were realized from sale of medicines against Rs. 90-0-9 and Rs. 267-1-3 from prescription fees against Rs. 186-14-0. The increased rate of prescription fee now paid covers the pay of the additional compounder. The Hospital Committee visited the Hospital and generally found things in order, but the arrangements were necessarily temporary and far from perfect.

155. *Moffussil Dispensaries.*—Of the 3 moffussil dispensaries which admit in-patients, Dinhat shows a decrease of 6 patients, 112 to 118. While Mathabhanga and Mekligunge show increase of 20, (98 to 78) and 14, (51 to 37.) These last two as well as Haldibari show increased attendance of out-patients while Dinhat and Fulbari show a decrease, considerable in the former, 2690 to 2364, and very marked in the latter, 2061 to 1527. The number of deaths in Dinhat, 16, was heavy. The cost of diet was again heaviest at Mekligunge and it increased there, and at Mathabhanga, while it was lower in the Sudder and Dinhat. The receipts from sale of medicines are again highest at Mathabhanga and are unduly low at Mekligunge.

156. *Jail, Military and Police Hospitals.*—These all show worse results, particularly the Military Hospital, where the daily average of sick was nearly double that of the previous year.

157. *Midwifery.*—The Midwife attended 62 cases during the year being an increase of 3 cases.

158. *Staff.*—There have been no changes in the subordinate staff during the year. The Civil Surgeon declines to give any decided opinion regarding the qualification of his subordinates, as he was in charge for so short a time, but states generally that they discharged their duties satisfactorily. Looking at the working of the year, results are bad in the Sudder, Dinhat and Fulbari and the officers in charge of these dispensaries should show better results next year.

POLITICAL.

159. Your Highness had made all arrangement to celebrate the completion of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress' 60th year on the Throne, on the 31st June, when the earth-quake of the 12th of June stopped all preparations. The Viceroy's *khariya* which was to have been received in public Durbar was received and answered privately.

Your Highness volunteered to serve in the Tirah Campaign, and Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has signified her approbation of the services rendered by making You a Companion of the Bath.

MILITARY.

160. During the past year there was no change in the number or constitution of the corps. I am glad to be able to report very decided better feeling among the men. I was obliged to inflict some severe sentences during the year, dismissing for comparatively minor faults, men who were fermenting a spirit of insubordination and determination not to submit to drill and discipline. Added to this, Your Highness was pleased at the close of the year to intimate that the pay of the men would be raised with effect from the current year and this has had the best effect. I have no doubt a better and more soldierly class of men will now be enlisted. Drill continues to improve but the new carbines cannot be relied on to shoot straight over 100 yards. The Subadar Major has now an easier task before him, and I confidently expect still further improvement under his zealous teaching. The junior officers at least now know their duties, and the Havildars have accepted the position. Owing to the high price of food Your Highness sanctioned the payment of Rs. 435 to men drawing Rs. 10 and under as compensation for dearness of food.

STATE PRESS.

161. There was no change in the regular establishment during the year. As an experimental measure half the Jail labor, which ranks as temporary establishment, was replaced by out-side labor and the Superintendent is satisfied with the change and reports that he gets more work.

162. *Stamps.*—Stamps to the value of Rs. 1,95,352 were printed during the year of the following denominations :—

			Rs.	A.	P.
Judicial	...	...	1,17,001	0	0
Documentary	...	...	84,891	8	0
Court-fee	...	...	40,980	0	0
Copying fee	...	...	2,479	8	0
Total	...	...	1,95,352	0	0

The supply of Stamps fell short at times and it will probably be necessary to get another Press.

163. *General working.*—The Press is not capable of doing all the State work, and there is delay in complying with indents for forms and in printing State papers. The type got mixed in the earth-quake and its re-arrangement caused much delay. I shall submit a special report on the whole question as it is clear to me that if the Press is to do the work it ought to do, increased plant and establishment is necessary. The number of paying subscribers to the Gazette has risen from 78 to 88, while the number issued free remains at 78. The Press continues to be worked in the Palace Stables where there is sufficient room, and which is on the whole more convenient than the old rooms.

164. During the year a monthly journal of Sanitation was started by Dr. Gupta and was printed at the State Press so long as that officer remained in Cooch Behar.

PHILKHANA AND KHEDDA.

165. *Philkhana*.—At the close of the last year the number of State elephants, excluding the two kept in the Zemindari, and excluding the elephants caught in the Khedda of 1896 was 39. In the year under report two died, both valuable elephants, and four were sold for Rs. 13,000 including the two purchased in execution of a decree as reported last year. The whole of the old elephants selected for sale have now been disposed of. During the year one of the elephants caught in 1896, valued at Rs. 2,500, and three of those caught in 1897, valued at Rs. 7,000, have been put on the regular establishment. The year thus closed with 37 elephants on the establishment, and one has since been purchased making 38. The expenditure of the year on the Philkhana was Rs. 27,359.

166. *Khedda*.—The lease of the Goalpara elephant mehal expired on the 15th of December, but the State elephants were withdrawn from the beginning of November as the work was telling on them. Fifteen elephants were employed in Khedda work and twenty elephants were caught valued at Rs. 24,100. Five of these valued at Rs. 3,600 died, and, as above stated, three valued at Rs. 7,000 were transferred to the Philkhana establishment. The remaining twelve elephants were unsold at the close of the year, but 8 valued at Rs. 7,900 were afterwards sold for Rs. 7,195 at the Nekinardau fair. The remaining 4 valued at Rs. 5,600 are still for sale. Rs. 7,400 were realized by the issue of licenses. The financial result of the Khedda is as follows:—

Sale of licenses	...	...	...	Rs. 7,400
Ditto of elephants	...	...	...	" 7,195
Value of unsold elephants	...	...	...	" 5,600
Ditto elephants retained	...	...	...	" 7,000
		Total	...	" 27,195
Deduct cost of Khedda	...	...	...	" 12,237
		Total profit	...	" 14,958

The results are not as good as in the previous year but they are not bad.

LIBRARY.

167. *Library*.—Only 29 English and 19 Bengali books were added during the year bringing the total number of books up to 7,992. Considerable damage was done to the books and furniture by the earth-quake and a sum of Rs. 107 was spent on rebinding and repairs. New books were ordered rather late in the year and a sum of Rs. 108 lapsed to the State owing to the indent not being complied with in full.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

168. *Superintendent's office*.—Babu Priya Nidhan Palit, the Head clerk and Sheristadar continues to discharge his duties satisfactorily. In his absence work did not get on so well, and the office as a whole is not so strong as it should be for the pay given.

I have the honor to be,
Your Highness' most obedient servant,
D. R. LYALL,
Superintendent of the State, Cooch Behar.

No. 1479.

FROM

RAI CALICA DOSS DUTT BAHADUR, B. L.,
DEWAN OF THE COOCH BEHAR STATE.

TO

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJAH BHUP BAHADUR
IN COUNCIL, COOCH BEHAR.

Dated, Cooch Behar, the 26th July 1898.

YOUR HIGHNESS,

I HAVE the honor to submit the following report on the administration of the Revenue Department of the State for the year 1897-98. As in previous years the report has been divided into the following six sections:—

- I.—Land Revenue.
- II.—Settlement.
- III.—Excise Revenue.
- IV.—Treasury and Stamp Revenue.
- V.—Offices at the Rajbari.
- VI.—Miscellaneous.

SECTION I.—LAND REVENUE.

2. The charge of the department rested with me throughout the year.

3. The names of the officers, who were in charge of the different Sub-divisions, are given in the following table:—

Sub-division	Name of officer.	Period of incumbency.
Sudder	Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, Naib Ahilkar ...	From 1st April 1897 to 8th Feby. 1898.
	" Rajkrishna Das, Naib Ahilkar ...	" 9th Feby. 1898 to close of year
Toofangunj	" Harendra Narain Chowdhuri, Naib Ahilkar.	" 1st April 1897 to 6th Feby. 1898.
	" Bama Charan Neogi, Sub-Naib Ahilkar ...	" 7th Feby. 1898 to close of year.
Mekligunj	" Padma Nath Das, Offg. Naib Ahilkar ...	Throughout the year.
Mathabhanga	" Aahutosh Ghose, Naib Ahilkar ...	From 1st April 1897 to 30th May 1897.
	" Jag. Mohan Biswas, Sub-Naib Ahilkar ...	" 31st May 1897 to 29th June 1897.
	" Aahutosh Ghose, Naib Ahilkar ...	" 30th June 1897 to close of year.
Dinhata	" Hari Nath Basu, Naib Ahilkar ...	Throughout the year.

4. Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterjee continued to act as Malcutchery Naib Ahilkar at the Sudder till the 8th February 1898, when Babu Raj Krishna Das, who had been confirmed in the above post on Kumar Rangila Narayan's death, but had, in consequence of the deputation on the Bijni Estate work and the subsequent absences on leave of Babu Narendra Nath Sen, been officiating as Assistant Civil Judge, returned to his substantive appointment and Babu Gopal Chandra took privilege leave for 3 months. Babu Harendra Narain Choudhuri was the Naib Ahilkar of Tufangunj and the Settlement Naib Ahilkar till the 6th February, when he was relieved of the charge of the Sub-divisional office by Babu Bama Charan Neogi, Sub-Naib Ahilkar, who was appointed an additional Naib Ahilkar for the purpose, and deputed exclusively on settlement work. There were no changes at Mekligunj and Dinhata, Babus Padma Nath Das and Hari Nath Basu being respectively in charge of the Sub-divisional offices

throughout the year. At Mathabhanga Babu Ashutosh Ghosh was absent on privilege leave for a short period of one month only from the 31st May and Babu Jagadballav Biswas, Sub-Naib Ahilkar, acted for him.

5. Amongst the Sub-Naib Ahilkars Babu Pramatha Nath Chatterjee was employed in the Sudder Malcutchery and Babu Jagadballav Biswas at Mathabhanga during the whole year. Babu Bama Charan Neogi was the Sub-Naib Ahilkar of Tufangunj till the 6th February, when, as stated above, he was appointed an additional Naib Ahilkar and placed in charge of the Sub-divisional office; there was no Sub-Naib Ahilkar there after the above date. At Dinhat Babu Surendra Nath Chuckerbutty returned to his duties on the 8th April, but was soon afterwards appointed a Deputy Collector and Deputy Magistrate under Government and he resigned his post in the State on the 12th May. Babu Rajani Kanta Bhowmic was again appointed to act as a Sub-Naib Ahilkar and sent to Dinhat.

6. During the year under report we obtained possession of the 190 bighas of land in Taluk Shib Prasad Mustafi, which the Government had given up after being fully satisfied in the course of the enquiries connected with the boundary dispute near Mogulhat that it belonged to the State. The land has been included in Sub-division Dinhat. It formerly appertained to our Taluk Kishmat Mokarari and will now constitute a new Taluk named Kishmat Mokarari Part II.

7. The current demand of Mal and Debutter Revenue for the year under report amounted to Rs. 13,16,104 and the arrear to Rs. 2,30,485. The total demand was thus Rs. 15,46,589; the collections, inclusive of Rs. 4,905 on account of excess payments (*Fazil*), were Rs. 13,37,648 and the remissions Rs. 54,370. The balance at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 1,59,476. The demands and collections for the last 10 years are shown in the following table:—

YEAR.	DEMAND.							BALANCE.					Amount of excess payments or of revenue paid before it became due.
	Mal or current demand.	BAKETA OR ARREAR DEMAND.					Amount of collections.	Amount written off.	Out of arrear demand.	Out of current demand.	Total of balance.		
		Amount of balance shown in the statement for the previous year.	Increase.	Decrease.	Total net arrear demand.	Grand total of demand.							
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
1888-89	10,25,891	5,86,641	2,115	....	3,88,758	11,14,277	9,46,982	17,666	2,48,748	2,08,732	4,57,478	2,849
1889-90	10,50,538	4,52,478	2,082	....	4,54,500	15,05,092	10,25,778	12,362	2,67,940	2,02,904	4,70,844	3,880
1890-91	11,05,182	4,70,843	4,279	....	4,75,422	15,50,575	10,26,381	18,656	2,90,868	2,50,569	5,41,437	6,909
1891-92	11,62,335	5,41,437	7,545	....	5,48,982	17,11,316	11,51,134	25,635	2,50,659	2,88,878	5,39,537	6,192
1892-93	12,12,620	5,39,537	4,192	....	5,48,989	17,66,309	12,60,616	1,04,074	2,06,968	1,91,894	3,98,862	8,943
1893-94	12,80,190	3,98,862	6,505	....	4,05,067	16,65,267	12,85,033	51,015	1,75,330	1,03,100	3,38,430	7,237
1894-95	12,96,711	3,38,436	7,184	....	3,45,880	16,45,801	13,52,472	51,907	1,26,022	1,28,868	3,48,880	7,868
1895-96	13,02,037	3,48,880	9,264	....	3,57,644	15,80,681	13,20,532	32,232	1,01,206	1,02,387	3,08,486	8,500
1896-97	13,07,414	3,08,486	3,180	....	3,06,655	15,14,060	12,72,820	18,410	82,056	1,45,411	2,37,466	4,639
1897-98	13,16,104	2,37,478	3,204	....	2,30,485	15,46,589	13,37,648	54,370	39,905	1,18,571	1,59,476	4,908

* In the arrear demand brought forward in 1898-99, mistake has been made in adding the amount of arrears brought forward in 1897-98.

* In the arrear demand brought forward in 1896-97 two items were entered by mistake having been recently discovered a deduction has been made; hence the discrepancy with the balance shown that year.

8. It will be seen that the current demand for the year under report, amounting to Rs 13,16,104, exceeded that for the previous year by Rs 8,690. This was chiefly due to the following three causes, viz: 1stly, inclusion in the towjee of the progressive resettlement increase for Gird Chowra in Pergunna Cooch Behar and Gird Shandara in Pergunna Tufangunj, as also for the Baishchala jotes in Pergunna Mathabhanga; 2ndly, increases obtained by the resettlement of jotes relinquished or made khas in previous years, and 3rdly, increase in collection of tax on jute carts at the Haldibari Bunder. The gross increase in the demand amounted to Rs 15,658 and the gross decrease to Rs 6,968, and the above sum of Rs. 8,690 is the net increase obtained by the State during the year. Details are shewn in statements. Nos. I and II hereto appended.

9. As stated in my previous reports the resettlement of Gird Chowra and Shandara was concluded with effect from 1894-95 and that of the Baishchala jotes from the last year and not from 1895-96, as stated by mistake in the report for 1896-97. The progressive increase for these tracts entered in the accounts for the year of report is specified below:—

	Rs.
Increase for Gird Chowra in Sudder Sub-division	... 1,175
Ditto for Gird Shandara in Sub-division Tufangunj	... 1,327
Ditto for the Baishchala jotes in Sub-division Mathabhanga	... 84
	<hr/> 2,586

10. The bulk of the increase on account of new settlement was entered in the accounts for the different tracts in the years in which the settlement came into force. The increase shewn above is the amount due for the year under report for jotes of which the total increases exceeded the old juma by 20 per cent and had therefore, under the rules laid down by Your Highness, to be distributed over 5 years.

11. The increases on other accounts as well as the decreases are shewn in the table given below:—

Particulars.	Increase.	Particulars.	Decrease.	REMARKS.
	Ra. A. P.		Ra. A. P.	
Increase obtained by the re-settlement of relinquished jotes.	549 3 7	Decrease due to relinquishment of jotes	501 11 5	
Do. Do. of Khas jotes and other Khas lands.	4,908 5 3	Decrease due to cancellation of leases of bad jotes Rs.—561 12 6		
		Do. reduction on account of diluvion ... Ra. 719 4 0		
Do. Do. of Syrat Mehals...	7,510 14 4	Do. to lands taken up for public purposes ... Ra. 699 4 0	1,970 4 8	
Do. due to revision of Settlement papers.	85 2 8	Do. due to Settlement of Syrat Mehals.	4,380 11 11	
Do. of miscellaneous causes.	13 11 9	Do. due to revision of Settlement papers.	220 15 6	
Total ...	13,067 4 7	Total ...	6,963 11 6	
Net increase Ra. ...	6,103 9 1			

12. It will be seen that the increases obtained by the re-settlement of khas and relinquished Jotes and of other khas lands amounted to so large a sum as Rs 5,457 and that they exceeded the decreases on account of relinquishment and cancellation of leases of bad jotes and also an account of diluvion and taking up of land by Rs 2,985. The greater portion of this increase was obtained in the Sudder (Cooch Behar) and the Tufangunj Sub-division, where the number of khas and relinquished Jotes is comparatively large. There are separate registers for these jotes in each office and under existing orders the Sub-divisional Naib Ahilkars are required to furnish lists to Canoongoes, who,

in their turn, prepare their registers from these lists, hold the necessary enquiries and adopt steps for the re-settlement of the jotes. Enquiries are also held in special cases by the Naib Ahilkars or the Sub-Naib Ahilkars. Copies of the lists are periodically sent to me. In the course of my cold weather tour I go through the registers of khas and relinquished jotes and see what attempts for settling each jote have been made. It is satisfactory that notwithstanding a new settlement causing a large increase in the jama, and the distress caused by the failure of crops in 1896-97, not only has there been no decrease in the rent-roll of the State but that the revenue has steadily increased by the settlement in due course of khas lands of different descriptions. We have to deal with thousands of petty holdings and our State is intersected by many streams which shift their courses and leave sandy deposits; there must therefore be fluctuations in the demand. Great care is necessary to prevent loss to the revenue.

13. The next item of increase is that obtained by the settlement of syrat mehals. The net increase shewn on this account is Rs 3,250 and it is entirely due to the increase in the collection of tax on jute carts at the Haldibari Bunder. The number of these carts largely increased during the year owing to activity of the jute trade; this caused an increase in the collections to the extent of Rs 4,889. But for this large increase there would really have been a falling off in the syrat revenue. In my last report I stated how the fisheries in the State had been gradually deteriorating and how their value had decreased owing to the importation of fish by rail. The earth-quake of the 12th June 1897 also seriously affected the condition of many Jalkar mehals. The beds of several Beels were upheaved and when these were put up to auction for settlement they either elicited no bids or had to be leased out at reduced jamas. Istafas were also filed for some of the mehals. I have already taken steps in the Settlement Department to have the necessary enquiries made and to settle the dried up beds of the Jalkars as jotes.

14. The balance shewn at the close of the previous year amounted to Rs 2,27,278*, while that brought forward in the accounts for the year under report was Rs 2,30,485. The difference of Rs 3,207 was due to increase obtained by resettlements concluded with retrospective effect. Together with the current demand of Rs 13,16,104 the total demand for the year amounted to Rs 15,46,589, which, owing to increases both in the current and the arrear demand, exceeded that for the previous year by Rs 32,520.

15. The collections for the year of report amounted to Rs 13,37,648 against Rs 12,72,820 of the previous year, shewing an increase of Rs 64,828. They also exceeded the current demand by Rs 21,544 and the average collections of the 5 previous years by Rs 37,953; such a satisfactory result was quite unexpected in the beginning of the year. The previous year, 1896-97, was one of famine over a large portion of India. In my last report I stated how the crops failed in Cooch Behar also and how there was distress amongst many of our ryots owing to the unusual rise in the price of food-grains. I thought that traces of distress would also remain during the year of report even if we had good harvests and therefore reduced the estimates for Land Revenue, Mal and Debutter, in the budget to Rs 11,74,500. The distress increased as the year commenced and we had to arrange to distribute alms to helpless people in different parts of the State. Then came the terrible earth-quake of the 12th June and the fears intensified. But a kind Providence compensated for all this by blessing the country with splendid harvests. The early rice crop beat all previous record; even the oldest man had not seen a harvest like this. Other crops were also good. The provision for Land Revenue in the revised budget was raised to Rs 12,96,800; but the actual figure is even larger than this, though the tobacco market was very dull. The subject of crops and condition of the people will be dealt with in another portion of the report. I shall not therefore make any further remarks here.

16. The amount collected in each Sub-division is shewn below:—

Name of Sub-division.	Amount of current demand.	Amount collected.	Percentage of collection on current demand.
	Ra.	Ra.	
Sudder	2,67,842	2,78,846	104.3
Toofangunj	1,53,408	1,55,400	101.2
Mekligunj	2,06,983	2,10,034	101.4
Mathabhanga	3,82,990	3,89,153	101.6
Dinhata	3,05,381	3,04,216	99.6

17. It will be observed that excepting at Dinhata, where there was a small falling off to the extent of about one thousand rupees only, the collections exceeded the current demand everywhere. The result attained at the Sudder was the best, the percentage there having amounted to 104.3. The Naib Ahlikar of Dinhata states as follows as regards the decrease in his Sub-division:—

"The collections could not reach the current demand and fell short of it by Rs. 1,166. The percentage of collection over the current demand is 99.61 against 96.97 of the previous year. It may be stated here that arrears of revenue, amounting to Rs. 15,158-5-1, were remitted in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee, out of which a considerable sum could have otherwise been recovered and the collections would have thus exceeded the current demand by a considerable sum."

18. There is no doubt that had it not been for the Jubilee remissions a little more money would have been realised by the issue of processes; but still the explanation is not quite satisfactory. There were Jubilee remissions in other Sub-divisions also and the officers in charge of these Sub-divisions have been able to show better results

19. The following table shews the total demand for each Sub-division and the balance which remained due at the close of the year under report.

Name of Sub-division.	Total demand for 1897-98.	Balance due at the close of 1897-98.	Percentage of balance on demand at the close of 1897-98.	Percentage of balance on demand at the close of 1896-97.	Percentage of balance on demand at the close of 1895-96.
	Ra.	Ra.			
Sudder	3,18,475	28,073	9	16	13
Tufangunj	1,87,867	28,522	12	17	16
Mekligunj	2,82,250	18,022	7	11	7
Mathabhanga	4,42,873	45,230	10	13	12
Dinhata	3,65,624	44,629	12	16	14
Total	15,46,589	1,59,476	10	15	13

20. It will be observed that the result attained at the Sudder showed the greatest improvement. The collections here exceeded the current demand by 4 per cent and there has been a large reduction in the balance not only as compared with 1896-97, which was an exceptionally bad year, but also as compared with the year preceding it. Improvements are also observable in the other Sub-divisions but they are due to a certain extent to the large remissions.

21. The total number of Sale Istahars issued during the year of report was 18,829 against 13,872 of the previous year and that of Jotes sold was 515 against 500. The increase in the number of Istahars is attributable to the necessity of adopting steps for the recovery of the large arrears which had accumulated during the previous year. But this increase was not large and in the actual sales there was an increase of 15 only. The revenue officers were anxious to show some consideration towards people who were really in distress; but at the same time it was necessary for them to see that no undue advantage was taken of their kindness. In the course of my inspection of the Sub-divisional offices I was satisfied that

the Naib Ahikars and the Sub-Naib Ahikars were not unnecessarily severe in recovering the arrears. I found that many of the sales had been brought about by the proprietors themselves with different objects.

22. Details regarding the arrear balance are shewn in the table given below:—

		Rs.
Details about the balance shewn at the close of 1896-97.	1. Amount shewn at the close of 1896-97 ...	2,27,278*
	2. Amount collected during 1897-98 ...	1,37,054
	3. Amount written off during 1897-98 ...	51,228
	4. Balance at the close of 1897-98 ...	89,001
	5. Amount which may prove irrecoverable out of balance shewn against heading 4. ...	5,000
Details about the old balance entered in the Towji during 1897-98.	6. Amount of balance entered in the Towji during 1897-98 ...	3,207
	7. Amount collected during 1897-98 ...	1,826
	8. Amount remitted during 1897-98 ...	477
	9. Balance at the close of 1897-98 ...	904
	10. Balance which may prove irrecoverable out of balance shewn against heading 9 ...	.....
	11. Total of balances or total of figures shewn against headings 4 and 9 ...	89,905
	12. Total of amount which may prove irrecoverable out of the total balance shewn against heading 11 ...	5,000

* Vide explanation appended at foot of table in para 7.

23. It will be observed that out of the total arrears brought forward in the Towjee Rs. 1,38,880 was collected and Rs. 51,700 written off. Together with the amount remitted out of the current demand the total remissions granted during the year were Rs. 54,370 against Rs. 18,419 of the previous year. The increase was due to the remissions sanctioned in honor of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen'Empress of India on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee. The amount written off on this account during the year of report was Rs. 40,916. This was a very appropriate way of showing honor to Her Majesty, who was known to have felt very great sympathy for people who suffered distress owing to the rise in the price of food-grains during 1896-97. The balance which remained due at the close of the year out of the arrear demand was Rs. 39,905. This was the smallest balance ever shewn in the accounts.

24. The following table explains the discrepancies between the entries in the Towjee and those shown in the Treasury and financial accounts.

Amount of collections shewn in the Towjee ...	...	13,87,648	7	5
DEDUCT:—				
Excess payments (Fazil) made in previous year, which could not be credited in the cash book for the year of report ...	4,764	1	11	
Balance in hands of collecting officers, which could not be remitted to the Treasury during the year under report ...	31,358	5	5	
Amount of a Transfer Chalan of the Tufanganj Sub-divisional office which was credited in the Treasury during the previous year, but shown in the Towjee during the year of report ...	0	8	0	
		86,122	15	4
		13,01,525	8	1
ADD:—				
Amount of Miscellaneous receipts &c. which could not be credited in the Towjee ...	6,981	15	7	
Communication Improvement cess which could not be credited in the revenue Towjee ...	1,774	3	9	
Balance in hands of collecting officers which could not be remitted to the Treasury during 1896-97, but was remitted during the year of report ...	16,142	4	7	
Carried over ...	24,848	7	11	

Brought forward	24,848	7	11	15,01,535	6	1
Amount of a Challen of the Tufanganj Sub-divisional office, which was credited in the Treasury but could not be shown in the Towjee	25	13	3			
Amount of a Challen of Miscellaneous receipts of the Dinahat Sub-divisional office which was entered in the Mal Amdani Book, and remitted to the Treasury but was not credited in the Towjee	6	4	0			
				24,878	9	3
Amount credited in Treasury Cash Book				13,26,404	1	3

25. I stated in some of my previous reports how owing to the arrangement of kists, under which the fourth or the last kist fell due only 2 or 3 days before the close of the year, no processes could be issued for the recovery of the arrears due for that kist until after the commencement of the following year. The result was that the bringing forward of a large old balance on the first day of each new year could not be avoided. The Bengal Government were for a long time anxious to change the dates for kists and, as we had followed the law prevalent in Bengal, we naturally waited to see what was done by them. At length we resolved to make no further delay and the matter was taken up last year. I submitted a report proposing to reduce the number of kists for under-tenants from 8 to 4, and thus save them from a good deal of harassment. Many influential jotedars and pleaders were consulted and the number of kists for jotedars was proposed to be reduced from 4 to 3, the last kist falling due on the 15th Falgoun, that is, about a month and a half before the commencement of the new Bengali year. The time when each principal crop of the country was reaped and the produce brought to the market was fully taken into consideration. As before, jotes were divided into three classes and the revenue for jotes of the first class was to be paid in 3 instalments and that for those of the second class in 2. For third class jotes there was to be one kist as before. The proposals made by me having met with the approval of Your Highness in Council an act was accordingly passed on the 10th February 1898. The act, which is called the Cooch Behar Kist Act of 1898, has come into force from the beginning of the current year. Under the new arrangement of kists, as laid down in the Act, while the collecting officers will have more than a month for issuing processes for the recovery of the arrears of revenue due for the last kist, the Jotedars will get sufficient time before each kist to realise rents from the under-tenants.

26. Another very important legislative measure passed during the year was the Revenue Sale Law of the State. The reasons, for which an amendment of the old law was considered advisable, were referred to in para 14 of my report for 1895-96. A repetition here of these reasons is not necessary. The bill, which had been originally drafted by Mr. E. E. Lewis, the late Vice-President of the State Council, and which, with certain improvements, had been published in the official Gazette under the sanction of Your Highness, was again taken up and its provisions fully discussed by the Council. Further improvements were suggested and adopted and an act, called the Cooch Behar Revenue Sale Act of 1897, was finally passed by Your Highness on the 28th August 1897. In framing the Act we have adopted many of the provisions of the Bill to amend the Revenue Sale Law introduced into the Bengal Legislative Council in 1894. The defaulter has been given the power of redeeming the jote already sold after the payment of certain penalties. To secure the effectual publication of the Sale Istahar provision has been made to publish it in the neighbouring Hâts. The working of the new Act will be watched with great interest.

27. *Canoongoes and Assistant Canoongoes.*—There were no changes amongst the Canoongoes during the year of report. Babu Hem Chandra Bhattacharjee, 1st grade Canoongoe, continued to be employed in the Sadder and Babu Hari Prasad Nangi, 2nd grade Canoongoe, in the Tufanganj Sub-division. The change

of the offices at Dinbata, Mathabhangra and Mekligunj rested respectively with Munshi Kalimuddin and Babus Shashi Bhushan Roy and Mohendra Nath Adhikari. Babu Hari Prasad Neogi was absent on privilege leave for 30 days from the 2nd February, when the Ticca Ameen placed under him was in charge of his duties.

28. The total number of cases made over to the Canoongoes was 1410; this together with the 202 cases pending from the previous year, made up a total of 1612 cases for enquiry, out of which 1193 were enquired into, 148 returned without enquiry and 159 made over to the Settlement Department. 112 cases remained pending at the close of the year. The following table shews the number of cases enquired into by each officer:—

Babu Hem Chandra Bhattacharjee, 1st Grade Canoongoe	...	104
" Hari Prasad Neogi, 2nd Grade Canoongoe	...	281
Munshi Kalimuddin, 3rd Grade Canoongoe	...	234
Babu Shashi Bhushan Roy, 3rd Grade Canoongoe	...	151
" Mohendra Nath Adhikari, ditto ditto	...	296
Assistant Canoongoe Kumar Khitindra Narayan	...	6
Babu Umesh Chandra Dutt, Acting Assistant Canoongoe	...	191

29. The Canoongoes also enquired into the condition of a large number of khas and relinquished jotes and adopted steps for resettling them. The result obtained by them in this important work has been already shown in another portion of this report. They had to be employed in settling boundary disputes and in other miscellaneous works. Babu Hem Chandra Bhattacharjee is an experienced officer but unfortunately his health has been bad. I was quite satisfied with the work done by Babu Hari Prasad Neogi, Munshi Kalimuddin and Babu Mohendra Nath Adhikari; the annual reports they have submitted are interesting and contain much useful information. Babu Sasi Bhushan Roy also has done good work. Babu Umesh Chandra Dutt is a very good surveyor. All the Canoongoes rendered valuable assistance in the work of distributing alms for alleviating distress in the beginning of the year.

30. *Cases.*—The following table compares the numbers of revenue cases instituted and disposed of during the last two years.

YEAR.	Pending at the close of the previous year.	Instituted during the year.	Total.	Transferred to other Courts	Cases remaining to be disposed of by the Revenue Courts	Disposed of.	Pending.
1896-97 ...	558	15,808	16,366	138	16,228	15,251	977
1897-98 ...	977	17,745	18,722	206	18,516	17,817	699

31. It will be observed that owing chiefly to increase in the number of cases instituted for the recovery of arrears of revenue, the total institutions increased from 15,808 in 1896-97 to 17,745 in the year of report. 206 cases were, for the sake of convenience, transferred to the Settlement Department. These cases related to lands in Bilat Bishguri and the 9 taluks in Gird Chovra, the re-settlement of which is being carried on, and also to certain patches of *khas* land not previously dealt with in the course of the operations connected with the general resettlement of the State, but which have now been taken up by the Settlement Department. 18,516 cases remained to be decided by the Revenue Courts, of which 17,817 against 15,251 of the previous year were disposed of and 699 cases remained pending. The result was satisfactory. Together with the 5 cases pending from the previous year there were 29 appeals for disposal, of which I decided 26. 3 appeals only remained pending.

32. *Cases in which the State was a party.*—Babu Nil Kanta Chatterjee M.A. B.L., continued to hold the office of the State Pleader throughout the year.

33. Together with the 7 cases pending at the close of the previous year there were 24 cases in which the State was a party, of which 17 were decided in our favor. No case was decided against us. 1 case was remanded for retrial by the Civil Judge's Court and 6 cases remained pending at the close of

the year. There was no case of importance deserving special mention. Babu Nil Kanta Chatterjee is a good lawyer, from whom I can always derive valuable assistance in matters in which the State is interested.

34. *Nezarut Department.*—The revenue work done by the Nezarut Department during the last two years is shewn in the table given below:—

YEAR.	Processes served free of charge.	Processes for realisation of revenue fee, for which fees are to be realised afterwards.	Processes for which fees have been realised.	Total number of processes.	Amount of earnings shown in Nezarut books.	Expenditure.	REMARKS.
					Ra.	Ra.	
1896-97 ...	3,052	5,765	15,359	24,156	12,862 8	7,298	
1897-98 ...	4,268	5,352	16,649	26,144	13,958 0	7,492	

35. It will be seen that the number of processes served free of cost rose from 3052 to 4268. The increase was due chiefly to increase in the number of Istahars for the settlement of Syrat Mehals issued during the year. A decrease of 538 is observable under processes for the recovery of arrears of revenue, the peon fees for which remained to be realised. This small decrease appears to have been more than made up by the increase in the number of processes for which the fees were actually realised. The total number of processes served during the year was 26,144 against 24,156 of the previous year and the earnings amounted to Ra. 13,958 against Ra. 12,862-8. Deducting from the above figure of Ra. 13,958 the expenditure of Ra. 7,492 incurred during the year, the net gain to the State amounted to Ra. 6,466, which exceeded that for the previous year by Ra. 896-8. Besides the net monetary gain shown above, the State got much miscellaneous work done by the Nezarut the value of which is not shewn in the returns.

36. Your Highness was pleased, on the recommendation jointly made by the Civil and Sessions Judge and myself, to grant an increase of Ra. 1 to the pay of the peons all round and to sanction the proposal of designating the good-peons as Buxia, their pay being at the same time raised from Ra. 7 to Ra. 10 each. The increase in the price of food-grains made it necessary to grant the above increases. For the same reason increases have been also given to mohurers in the different departments. The case of the Naib Nazirs still remains to be considered.

37. Babu Guru Gobind Guha Nazir, who commenced service during the reign of Maharajah Narendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, is still fit for active work. Your Highness has therefore been pleased to grant him further extension of service. He has been discharging his duties satisfactorily.

38. *Communication Improvement Cess.*—The collections on account of the Communication Improvement Cess for the last two years are shewn in the following table:—

		Year.	
		1896-97.	1897-98.
Demand ...	Current ...	1,958 0 0	1,958 0 0
	Arrear ...	545 0 0	775 0 0
	Total ...	2,498 0 0	2,733 0 0
Collections ...	...	1,784 0 0	1,818 0 0
Remissions ...	...	.....	145 0 0
Balance ...	...	775 0 0	775 0 0
Paid in excess ...	...	8 10 6	9 0 0

39. Owing to increase in the arrear demand the total demand rose from Ra. 2,498 in 1896-97 to Ra. 2,728 in the year of report. The collections amounted to Ra. 1,815 against Ra. 1,784, shewing an increase of Ra. 81. Ra. 145 was written off with the sanction of Your Highness and the balance which remained due at the close of the year amounted to Ra. 775. The subject of exempting the Panchagrami Brahmins from the payment of cess is still under consideration. The amounts due from them have increased the balance.

40. *Miscellaneous Work*.—The comparative table given below shows the miscellaneous work done during the last two years :—

YEAR.	No. of petitions received.	No. of reports on which orders were passed.	No. of Robocaries recorded.	No. of notices and other pamphlets issued.	No. of English letters addressed.	Value of Stamps sold.
						Rs. A. P.
1896-97	28,878	10,472	1,459	38,688	11,097	15,757 12 6
1897-98	25,787	10,019	1,294	38,685	11,765	14,545 11 9

41. There was a large increase in the number of petitions which was due to increase in cases for recovery of arrears of revenue. The decrease in the number of reports is small and it calls for no remarks. The falling off under the head of Robocaries was more than made up by the increase in the number of English letters issued. A very large number of cases for mutation of names was instituted during 1896-97 ; this accounts for the large increase in the value of stamps sold that year.

42. In consideration of the great rise in the price of food-grains Your Highness has already been pleased to revise, with effect from the current year, the scale of pay of the Mohurers of the different departments. They have been divided into 3 grades, the maximum pay of those of the first grade being fixed at Rs. 30 ; the maximum salaries of the 2nd and the 3rd grade Mohurers are to be Rs. 25 and Rs. 20 respectively. Most of the Mohurers have got increases by the above gradation. The question of raising the pay of some of the Amlas under whom the Mohurers have to work is also under consideration. Most of our Mohurers have to work very hard and they fully deserve the kindness shewn to them. I am glad the appointment of an additional clerk for the Toofangunj Sub-divisional Office has also been sanctioned.

43. *Crops and condition of people*.—In November 1896 I prepared for the Council a report showing roughly the quantities of cultivated land of different sorts. Exclusive of tobacco land the quantity of cultivated land may be taken in round numbers to be about 14 lacs of Bighas, of which Bitri, or the early rice, is grown in ordinary years in 4,29,000 Bighas, Haimanti, or the late rice, in 7,97,000 Bighas and jute, mustard-seed, Cheena, Kaon and other crops in the remaining 1,74,000 Bighas. When in the previous year the ryots saw how scarce rice was, owing to the failure of Haimanti, and suffered great distress in consequence they betook themselves to the cultivation of Bitri, Cheena, Kaon, wheat and barley. The area under Bitri cultivation was largely extended everywhere; in some places it was believed to be more than doubled. The rain-fall of the year under report, which amounted to 121.29 inches against 85.44 of the previous year, was very conveniently distributed. The fall of 1.86 inches in April moistened the soil and facilitated the growth of the crop and though the showers of May, which amounted to 23.39 inches, impeded to a certain extent the weeding of fields, no material injury was done. There was good rain also in June and July, viz 14.65 and 23.96 inches respectively; the crops grown in low lands was slightly damaged. Some little damage was also done by the disturbance of the surface of the earth by the earth-quake of the 13th June. But notwithstanding this the outturn of the Bitri rice was the best we ever had ; even old persons did not remember to have seen a crop like it. In the average the outturn of each field was 18 annas, but as cultivation had increased the total yield was believed by many to be double of that of an ordinary year. As soon as the Bitri was harvested people no longer cared for imported rice, and prices went down.

44. There was a corresponding decrease in jute cultivation. The heavy rains of May and June injured this crop and the outturn was about 12 annas. But those rains were very favorable to Haimanti rice. In subsequent months the

there was seasonable rain and this late crop was grown in many Bitri fields. In some places a crop better than the average was reaped, while in others it was not so good. On the whole the yield may be estimated at 15 annas. Owing to late rains tobacco was late. The showers in January and February favored its growth very much and the out-turn was 13 annas. The yield of mustard-seed may be estimated at 14 annas and that of Cheena, Kaon, wheat and barley exceeded the average.

45. The distress caused by the failure of crops in 1896-97 continued to increase till the reaping of the Bitri harvest. During the early months of the year of report people had to depend to a great extent on imported rice and prices were very high. Persons who owned no land and could obtain no loans suffered most, and I brought their miserable condition to the notice of the Council. The Fouzdary Ahilkar, who was the Famine Officer, also submitted a report on the subject on the 8th May 1897. The following quotation from this report shows how matters stood just after the commencement of the year,

"It is no doubt difficult to find out cases of actual distress without the crucial test of earth-work. But so far as I have hitherto been able to gather from enquiries made by me personally, by the Superintendent of Police, the Sub-divisional officers, and the Inspector of Schools; as well as from the statistics collected by the last named officer and the Superintendent of Police and also from a conference held with the above mentioned officers on the 3rd instant, I am inclined to believe that many people have by this time so completely exhausted their resources that they find it difficult to procure even one meal a day. The landless classes, the destitute widows and the sick and invalid farmers with their families for instance are in great distress. The Sub-divisional officers urge that something should be done to help as many as possible of these persons. They represent that they are being daily pressed for relief by the distressed persons within their respective jurisdictions, who, but for their persuasion, would have by this time come up to town and directly begged for relief from the authorities. Although there is no immediate apprehension of death from starvation, it is a fact that a large number of the people are getting enfeebled for want of sufficient and proper food, and may ultimately be reduced to quite a helpless condition. This is a state of things which I beg to submit should be provided against if possible. The number of persons requiring relief in a more or less degree is pretty large. But I would not propose to give relief to every person who is in need unless the case be one of extreme destitution. On this principle I roughly estimate that the number of persons requiring immediate relief all over the State, is about 6500 namely:—

Sudder	...	...	...	...	1,500
Toofangunj	...	...	...	...	1,000
Dinhata	...	...	...	...	2,000
Mathabhanga	...	...	...	...	1,200
Mekligunj	...	...	...	...	800
					6,500

It will be noticed that although the number is apparently large it is a very small fraction of the 6 lacs inhabiting the State."

46. Your Highness considered the matter fully and was graciously pleased to sanction the grant of Rs. 15,000 for gratuitous relief and to also order test works to be opened where necessary, if it was found that the people were willing to do earth-work. With the approval of Your Highness public subscriptions were invited and so large a sum as Rs. 6,829. was collected. The relief operations were commenced on the 16th May 1897 and carried on for 43 days. The Famine Officer submitted a full report to the Council through the Superintendent of the State which was published in the Gazette; I shall not therefore give any further details here.

47. While the people were passing through the worst time as stated above, there came the terrible earth-quake of the 12th June 1897, which paralyzed them for a few days. Terror was added to distress. But the Bitri became fit, for being reaped all the same. It tempted the ryots to work, and they soon busied themselves in bringing the harvest home. All distress soon disappeared; there was no more want of food in the interior and the prices came down in towns. The price of common rice rose to Rs. 4-8 in the beginning of the year; after the harvesting of the crop the price of Bitri rice came down to Rs. 2-12, though that of Haimanti rice did not fall below Rs. 4-8 before the month of

January. When afterwards a good harvest of Haimanti was reaped all signs of distress disappeared. The price of Haimanti rice never became lower than Rs. 3; this price ruled for a few days only. As the year closed the rate was Rs. 3-8.

48. There was a falling off in the price of jute which varied from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 4-12. The tobacco trade also continued dull and the Naib Ahilkar of Mathabhanga, in whose Sub-division extensive business is carried on in this article reports that some firms at the Calicagunj Bunder were going to be closed and others have suffered heavy losses. The highest price at which tobacco was sold at Mathabhanga and Dinahata was Rs. 8 and the lowest Rs. 3. The price of mustard-seed ranged from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4-8 and that of mustard oil was Rs. 13. Cheena, Kaon and wheat were generally sold at Rs. 2 a maund.

49. At one time I thought that the people would require a long time to recover from the effects of the distress caused by the failure of crops in 1896-97, but it appears they were not really so badly off as we imagined. Many of them no doubt incurred debts which they have not yet been able to fully repay. But generally speaking they are not so deeply involved at present. The result of revenue collections shows that they had the power to satisfy their liabilities notwithstanding the low prices of tobacco and jute. They had large quantities of surplus rice and portions of these they could sell at high prices; this circumstance was no doubt very much in their favor.

50. The great earth-quake disturbed the level of the country in many places and injuriously affected the drainage. We feared that the State would be more water-logged than ordinarily and there would be an increase of fever. But here also there was a surprise. The health of the people was generally good throughout the year. There were some cases of cholera in the town and in a few other places, but this was not so very serious.

51. The earth-quake made most of the wells in the State unfit for use. There was not water in many Beels also owing to the upheaval of their beds. For these reasons there was great want of drinking water both for men and for cattle. Great apprehensions were entertained on this account. We tried to sink pipe wells and to cleanse and deepen public pucca wells. But still much inconvenience was felt during the year.

52. The ruling of the Council to the effect that no sort of contract can be held to be valid if entered only in a *Khata* has proved beneficial. It has discouraged to a great extent all *Moolee* transactions in which ryots take advances of money agreeing to give specific quantities of produce at low rates. These transactions often brought ruin to many people.

53. *Emigration*.—The only cases reported are those from Mathabhanga. The Naib Ahilkar states that the number of persons who left his Sub-division for the Bhutan Duars is 209, and that of persons who returned to the State 88. He remarks as follows in connection with this subject.

"Many had gone to the Duars under an illusory hope that they would find a better state of things there. But most of them subsequently returned being sadly disappointed on finding things worse. These remarks apply to those who left the State during the scarcity; others as usual being heavily pressed by their Mahajans and to avoid the execution of decrees emigrated. Some of them are reported to have two houses, one in the State and the other in the Duars, to each of which they resort to live temporarily according to their convenience and in some cases for the purpose of defrauding their creditors."

54. A few more persons must have gone from other Sub-divisions; on the other hand some families no doubt came to the State from the neighbouring Government districts. But there was nothing noteworthy.

55. *Tour*.—I inspected all the Sub-divisional offices as also the office of the Manager of the Chaklajat Estates at Debigunj. I camped at Gosanimari to see the Thakurbari, the Sâl Forest and the old ruins there, and also at Poon-dibari to see how the settlement work was going on. I visited Haldibari and some other places in the interior of the State. Towards the end of August I was called to Darjeeling to attend the meetings of the Council convened there with the object of considering certain important questions before Your Highness.

departure for the Afghan frontier. I had also to attend meetings of the Council in Calcutta in December. The total period during which I was absent from the Head-quarters on State work was 65 days.

56. The number of days during which each Naib Ahilkar and Sub-Naib Ahilkar was out on tour is shewn in the following table :—

Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, as Offg. Malcutchery		
Naib Ahilkar	...	21 days.
" Raj Krishna Das, as Malcutchery Naib Ahilkar	...	3 "
" Harendra Narain Chowdhury, as Naib Ahilkar of Toofangunj	...	14 "
" Bama Charan Neogy, as Naib Ahilkar Toofangunj	...	24 "
Do. as Sub-Naib Ahilkar Tufangunj	22 days	2 "
" Padma Nath Das, as Naib Ahilkar, Mekligunj	...	58 "
" Ashutosh Ghosh, as Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhangha	...	57 "
" Jagadballav Biswas, as Offg. Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhangha	...	39 "
Do. as Sub-Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhangha	36 days	36 "
" Hari Nath Bose, as Naib Ahilkar Dinbata	...	72 "
" Pramatha Nath Chatterjee, as Sub-Naib Ahilkar, Malcutchery	...	65 "
" Rajani Kanta Bhowmick, as Sub-Naib Ahilkar Dinbata	...	35 "
" Surendra Nath Chuckerbutty, as Sub-Naib Ahilkar Dinbata	...	2 "

57. Babu Hari Nath Bose remained out for the longest period and did much useful work in Sub-division Dinbata. Many parts of that Sub-division have suffered owing to the earth-quake; he visited all these parts. I was glad Babu Pramatha Nath Chatterjee was on tour for 65 days; he could thus gain much local experience. The tours performed by Babus Padma Nath Das and Ashutosh Ghosh fell sort of the prescribed period by 2 and 3 days respectively. They visited all important places in their Sub-divisions. Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhury had to be constantly away from his head-quarters on settlement work and could therefore be out in connection with sub-divisional work for 14 days only. Babu Bama Charan Neogi's position was peculiar, as he had to remain in charge of the sub-treasury even during the greater portion of the time Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhury was the sub-divisional officer of Toofangunj; but still I think he should have remained out for a period longer than 24 days. I trust he will visit all parts of his sub-division during the next cold weather. Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterjee could go out for 21 days even while he was in charge of the Treasury.

58. *Estates under the management of the Malcutchery.*—On the representation of Chandramani Debye, widow of the late Kasi Kanta Talukdar, a separate Manager was appointed for the estate owned by her and the office removed to her house; the General Manager was therefore relieved of the charge of this estate. On the other hand the estate of minor Narendra Nath Chuckerbutty, son of the late Sarba Nath Chuckerbutty of Takagach, was taken charge of by the Court of Wards and placed under his supervision. The total number of estates under the supervision of the General Manager thus continued to be 10. The most important of these was the one owned by Kuladip Narayan Sing and Lakhi Kumari. The result of management of this estate for the last 2 years is compared in the following table :—

	Years.	
	1896-97	1897-98
Current demand of State revenue and of rent due to superior land-lords	25,844	25,940
Arrear demand of rent due to the estate	37,010	38,382
Current demand of rent due to the estate	38,841	39,967
Rent collections of the estate	37,649	41,896
Miscellaneous receipts	20,347	30,128
Expenses of management	3,634	2,932
Disbursements on other accounts	55,755	67,268
Total investments of the estate (other than land)	11,254	6,124
Cash in hand	470	2,399
Debit on the estate	3,841	1,000
Percentage of collections on current demand	97.4	104.8

59. Owing chiefly to resettlement of jotes in Gird Chowrah and of Bilat Bishguri in Gird Shandara the current demand of State revenue and of rent due to superior land-lords rose from Rs. 25,844 in 1896-97 to Rs. 25,940 in the year of report. For the same reason there was an increase of Rs. 1,326 in the current demand of rent due to the estate, which together with the arrear demand for the year amounted to Rs. 78,349 against Rs. 75,651 of the previous year, of which Rs. 44,896 against Rs. 37,649 was collected. The collections exceeded the current demand 4.8 per cent. This was satisfactory. Owing to increase in collections there was an increase in the fees deducted for expenses of management. The disbursements on other accounts, amounting to Rs. 67,263, are specified below:—

	Rs.
State revenue and rent due to superior land-lords	25,940
Law charges	1,948
Loans granted	5,091
Advances granted to Tehsildars and others for law charges &c. ...	13,543
Repayment of deposits	4,455
Allowances to proprietors and maintenance of houses &c. ...	13,342
Maintenance of Thakurs	259
Do. of Kamata	589
Miscellaneous	1,162
Total	67,263

60. As stated in my last report the estate is now in a solvent condition. The proprietors Kuladip Narayan Sing and Lakhi Kumari were asked to take charge of it. The former had been engaged in protracted litigation in his native village in the District of Balia and had incurred debts to the extent of more than Rs. 30,000. He prayed that the management of the estate might be retained by the Court of Wards, as now, and arrangement made by the Court for the payment of his debts. Lakhi Kumari, while agreeing to the retention of the estate by the Court, did not consent to the repayment of Kuladip's debts with the profit for her share of the estate. There was therefore a quarrel between them which, happily for the good of the estate, I was able to settle after a good deal of discussion. In matters of succession and inheritance the family is guided by the Mitakhara law. The late Resaldar Bisweswar Nath Sing having died without leaving a legitimate male issue, the entire property devolved on his nephew (brother's son) Kuladip Narayan, who, however, executed an agreement by which he gave up a half share of the properties in Cooch Behar to Bisweswar Nath's widow Lakhi Kumari to be enjoyed by her during her life. The profits of the estate have hitherto gone to the payment of debts incurred in this State during the time of Bisweswar Nath Singh. Kuladip never objected to this arrangement. The aunt was anxious to retire to Benares and to spend the surplus profits for her share in works of public utility; the nephew wanted to have his debts in Balia paid off. Lakhi Kumari at length agreed to have these debts paid off with the surplus profits of the whole estate; Kuladip at the same time consented to have some work of public utility done in Bisweswar Nath Sing's name. The estate was to remain in the charge of the Court of Wards and the lady was to retire to Benares, her allowance being raised to Rs. 100. There were some other conditions of minor importance on each side. I encouraged them to settle matters amicably in the above manner, as there was no other means of saving this old house, in the welfare of which Your Highness was interested. Lakhi Kumari has since gone to Benares. Kuladip came to Cooch Behar last year and made representations regarding his monetary embarrassments. As he had taken nothing before for his maintenance from the funds of the estate, Rs. 10,825 was paid to him to enable him to repay a portion of his debts and to meet other charges; this amount was due to him on account of profits for his share. For this reason the charge for maintenance was much larger than in the previous year.

61. The details of management of the remaining nine Estates under the supervision of the General Manager are shown below :—

NAME OF ESTATE.	Current demand of State revenue and of rent payable to superior land-owners.	Arrear demand of rent due to the estate.	Current demand of rent due to the estate.	Rent collections.	Miscellaneous receipts.	Disbursements.	Investments of the estate.	Debts on the estate.	Cash in hand.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Estate of Ratideb Buxi ...	13,645	24,272	19,670	16,985	5,851	22,343	500	7,588	1,911
Do. Trimbak Bani ...	1,500	1,869	2,157	1,549	793	2,244	11,779	618	504
Do. Masirunnessa Bibi ...	5,597	4,725	7,523	5,915	1,703	7,512	1,308	4,530	892
Do. Asisar Rahaman and Yasinuddin Ahmed.	5,808	8,097	7,775	6,645	3,122	9,006	4,179	9,591	1,949
Do. Dharendra Nath Das...	1,323	833	1,889	1,943	436	2,294	123	1,608	240
Do. Umamoyi Debya ...	3,236	7,425	4,702	4,691	1,806	6,139	825	772	518
Do. Syama Charan Hishabia.	2,329	6,514	3,870	3,084	3,708	7,030	11,876	6,194	164
Do. Swarnamoyi Dasya ...	2,341	4,630	3,467	3,545	5,615	9,135	184	5,106	173
Do. Narendra Nath Chubty.	379	2,49	1,143	1,049	347	747	889	134	649

62. Owing to diluvion and relinquishment of undertenures the current demand of rent came down in the cases of the marginally named* 4 out of the first 8 Estates in the foregoing table and, excepting those belonging to Dharendra Nath Das and Swarnamoyi Dasya, the collections fell short of the current demand in all the Estates.

The falling off is attributed to the distress which prevailed amongst the ryots in the beginning of the year and also to the dullness of the tobacco market. Remissions were granted to some of these Estates with the object of affording relief to the undertenants. Remissions were also granted to the Estates of Shama Charan Hishabia, Swarnamoyi Dasya and Premada Ranjan Buxi, which were before under the supervision of the Naib Ahilkar of Dinhat, in consideration of the losses sustained by them owing to the defalcations committed by Shajwal Ram Chandra Chuckerbutty. A considerable portion of the arrear demand of rents shewn as due to the several estates are irrecoverable and will have to be written off. The estate of the late Babu Rati Deb Buxi was taken charge of by the Court of Wards under the terms of a will left by him. It was deeply involved in debts; large remissions were kindly granted by Your Highness and its solvency could be gradually restored. Babu Rati Deb left several sons. The youngest Basanta Kumar, who was an Aide-de-camp to Your Highness, met with a sad death on the day of the great earth-quake. The only surviving sons are Babus Prosanna Kumar Deb and Sarat Kumar Deb. They are both grown up young men. I have not yet thought it safe to make over charge of their estate to them, but the thing must be done. The condition of the estate of Swarnamoyi Dasya is also solvent now and its charge can be given up. Mosiruddin Ahmed of Nalangibari, who had always been of indifferent health, died during the year leaving behind him a girl of 8 months, named Masirunnessa Bibi, who is now the sole proprietress of his estate. Narendra Nath Chuckerbutty is an intelligent boy of Takagach. I have got him admitted into the Jenkins' School and placed him in the Boarding Institution under the care of the tutor there.

63. Babu Kali Kumar Chatterjee, General Manager, continued to discharge his duties satisfactorily.

64. The result of management of the estate of Babu Premoda Ranjan Buxi and Ramlata Debya is shewn in the table given below:—

	1896-97	1897-98
Current demand of State revenue and of rent due to superior land-owners ...	14,545	14,687
Arrear demand of rent due to the estate ...	10,357	9,345
Current demand of rent due to the estate ...	21,087	21,031
Rent collections ...	21,106	20,046
Miscellaneous receipts ...	3,780	4,441
Disbursements ...	20,752	22,298
Investments of the estate (other than land) ...	225	1,423
Debts on the estate ...	8,739	7,939
Cash in hand ...	344	1,322

65. Owing to acquisition of certain new holdings the current demand of State revenue and of rent due to superior land-lords rose from Rs. 14,565 in 1896-97 to Rs. 14,657 in the year of report. Some undertenures had however to be given up and there was a decrease of Rs. 66 in the current demand of rent due to the estate. There was also a decrease of Rs. 1,058 in the rent collections as compared with those of the previous year and of Rs. 973 as compared with the current demand. This is unsatisfactory; it is attributed to the frequent changes amongst the Tehsildars in Mathabhang and Dinahata and the dullness of the tobacco market. The debts on the estate are shewn to be Rs. 7,583. The proprietors have got properties in British Districts; these are not under the management of the Court of Wards. The debts referred to above are arrears of revenue due to the State which are being gradually recovered and they do not include loans contracted by the former proprietor, which amount to Rs. 15,105. Babu Premoda Ranjan Buxi himself has been appointed Manager. I am glad he is most anxious to learn work and to pay off all his debts. We have been trying for some time to save this old house from ruin.

66. As stated in my last report the estate of the late Kasi Kanta Talukdar devolved under the terms of his will on his widow Chandramani Debya on the death of his grandson Kamakhya Charan Talukdar. During the year under report Chandramani adopted a boy who was named Nalini Kanta Talukdar; he is now 9 years 7 months old. The particulars connected with the management of this estate are given are the following table:—

	YEAR.	
	1896-97	1897-98
Current demand of State revenue and of rent due to superior land-lords	16,198	16,834
Arrear demand of rent due to the estate	18,969	16,715
Current demand of rent due to the estate	25,519	25,289
Rent collections	22,759	25,984
Miscellaneous receipts	10,071	13,412
Disbursements	33,686	36,485
Investments of the estate (other than land)	39,625	41,595
Debts on the estate	326	432
Cash in hand	3,283	6,143

67. It will be seen that owing to new settlements concluded in Girds Chowrah and Shandara there was an increase of Rs. 141 in the current demand of State revenue &c. The current demand of rent due to the estate however decreased by Rs. 280 owing to diluvion and relinquishment of Jotes and also to ejectment of some of the defaulting undertenures. The collections amounted to Rs. 25,984 against Rs. 22,759, shewing an increase of Rs. 3,225. They also exceeded the current demand by Rs. 745. The result was satisfactory. Owing to recoveries of loans granted during previous years the miscellaneous receipts rose from Rs. 10,071 in 1896-97 to Rs. 13,412 in the year of report. The increase in disbursements, amounting to Rs. 2,849, is chiefly due to increase in the amount remitted to Treasury and kept under General Deposit, and that in investments to grant of new loans during the year of report.

68. Nalini Kanta is reading in the 9th class of the Jenkins' School. I have appointed a private tutor for him.

69. *Character of Officers.*—Babu Narendra Nath Sen, Assistant Civil Judge, worked under me with zeal and ability in connection with Bijni matters up to the 9th June 1897; the suit instituted by Kumar Lalit Narain against Rani Abhayeswari was compromised. Babu Raj Krishna Das, Malcutchery Naib Ahilkar and Treasury Officer, acted as Assistant Civil Judge during the greater portion of the year. For the period he was in the Revenue Department he discharged his duties to my entire satisfaction. Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, who acted for Babu Raj Krishna in the Malcutchery, was not at first equally careful in his work, but subsequently he exerted himself in putting things in order after the destruction of my office building by the earth-quake, and the result of collection of revenue was very good. The result of my inspection of the Tufan-gunj Sub-divisional office was not creditable to Babu Harendra Narain Choudhuri during the last year also; I was the more sorry because he was an intelligent and painstaking officer. Babu Ashutosh Ghosh continued to have thorough control over his office at Mathabhang and did his work very satisfactorily; he always

took great interest in the welfare of the people in his Sub-division. Babu Hari Nath Bose, though a junior officer, proved himself quite equal to the heavy work at Dinhat; he worked with ability, visited all parts of his Sub-division and gained much useful experience. There has been improvement in the work done by Babu Padma Nath Das. Sub-Naib Ahilkar Babu Bama Charan Neogi had really to remain in charge of Sub-division Tufangunj during a considerable portion of the year. The Council were not pleased with the work done by him but he is a hardworking officer and I trust he will be soon able to show a good result. Both Babus Pramatha Nath Chatterjee and Jagadballav Biswas are proving themselves to be intelligent and capable officers; they have been lately appointed to act as Naib Ahilkars. I have also been pleased with the manner in which Offg. Sub-Naib Ahilkar Babu Rajani Karita Bhowmic has been doing his work. My Head-Clerk continues to discharge his duty very satisfactorily.

SECTION II.—SETTLEMENT.

70. Babu Harendra Narain Choudhuri remained in charge of the Settlement Department during the whole year. To enable him to pay sufficient attention to settlement work and to finish the draft of the Completion Report, he was relieved of the charge of the Toofangunj Sub-division from the 8th February 1898. He fell ill after the close of the year and Babu Pramatha Nath Chatterjee, Sub-Naib Ahilkar, was appointed to act for him from the 8th May last. The annual report has been submitted by Babu Pramatha Nath.

71. The large tracts of country, in which the settlement operations had to be carried on, were Bilat Bishguri and the country near Pundibari and Pat-lakhawa. Bilat Bishguri is the eastern portion of Pergunnah Toofangunj comprising 29 Talooks in which there are 506 Jotes. The country near Pundibari and Patlakhawa, with which we had to deal, comprises 9 Taluks included in Gird Chowra. There were besides Taluks Jari Dhurla Nuddee in Pergunnah Dinhat and Taluk Daikhata in Teldhar.

72. In my last Annual Report I stated that the survey of 306 Jotes had been completed during 1896-97; 5 out of these were situated in Jari Dhurla Nuddee and the remaining 301 in Bilat Bishguri. The number of Jotes in Bilat Bishguri, which remained to be surveyed, was 205; these Jotes were first taken up during the last year. They contained 21,310 plots. After completing the survey in Bilat Bishguri the party came to the Taluks in Gird Chowra.

73. In previous reports I stated why the original settlement of the 9 Taluks in Gird Chowra had to be extended for 10 years in the same way as that of Bilat Bishguri. These taluks were mostly made up of extensive churs left by the Toras in the course of the shifting of its course from the east to the west; in many places the lands were not fertile and the population was thin. After the first settlement several Jotes were given up and I experienced great difficulty in resettling them. A new survey had therefore to be made of all the 9 Taluks. The settlement camp was pitched at Pundibari, whence Babu Harendra Narain supervised the work. I visited the camp in March and was satisfied that the work was being properly done. I was anxious to see that there was no over-assessment; in that view I consulted with the Settlement Officer as regards the classification of the Taluks. The number of Jotes in the 9 taluks was 149; the survey work in all of them was finished before the close of the year.

74. The survey of Taluk Daikhata was also taken up before the 31st March; but it could not be completed till towards the end of April. For the sake of convenience all the survey work done in this taluk is shown in this annual report.

76. The Survey work done during the last season is shown below:—

Name of town or Taluk.	No. of jotes of which the survey was completed.	BOUNDARY SURVEY.		INTERIOR FILLING.			REMARKS.
		Stations.	Distances in fathoms.	Total No. of plots or fields in the jotes.	Area in aghas.	Area in Sq. miles.	
Bilat Bishguri ...	306	8,639	15,717	21,810	65,888	23-74	
9 Taluks in Gird Chowra	149	4,709	14,058	19,411	47,183	24-36	
Daikhata ...	30	8,537	4,025	8,936	4,553	2-35	
Total ...	384	16,885	33,800	44,657	1,17,089	60-45	

76. The Partial work was finished in the 46 jotes in Bilat Bishguri, which, though surveyed, could not be visited by testing officers in 1896-97; it was also done in all the Jotes shewn in the above table as surveyed during the last season.

77. Terijes for all Jotedars and undertenants of Bilat Bishguri had to be prepared; their number was 1,388. I am glad 1,353 out of these were distributed by the Settlement Officer; the remaining 35 were not taken on account of deaths of proprietors and other good reasons. A noteworthy feature is that only 3 objections were filed. Babu Harendra Narain enquired into all these, but could not dispose of them. There were 262 Terijes for Jari Dhurla Nuddee, out of which 249 were distributed; not a single objection as regards classification was filed. The Terijes for Daikhata and the 9 taluks of Gird Chowra remained to be written out on the 31st March.

78. The result of the resettlement of Bilat Bishguri and of Jari Dhurla Nuddee are given in the following statement:—

	Total land.			Old jama.			New jama.			Total decrease.			Total increase.			Net increase.		
	R.	K.	D.	R.	A.	P.	R.	A.	P.	R.	A.	P.	R.	A.	P.	R.	A.	P.
Bilat Bishguri (Mal) ...	68,797	9	10	12,106	10	8	19,748	10	7	397	8	4	7,085	8	9	6,688	0	5
Dito (Debutter) ...	4,277	14	10	1,042	6	6	1,362	3	3	7	12	11	327	10	8	319	18	9
Total ...	73,075	4	0	14,147	15	8	21,105	13	10	405	5	3	7,412	8	8	6,967	14	2
Jari Dhurla Nuddee ...	4,273	15	14	571	4	9	1,022	8	6	.....			511	3	9	511	3	9
Total ...	77,348	19	14	14,659	4	5	22,128	6	4	405	5	3	7,924	7	2	7,469	1	11

79. When I moved the Council to take up the subject of the resettlement of Bilat Bishguri I thought of the clearances which were being rapidly made in that quarter and of the many petitions for settlement which were coming in. Babu Raj Krishna Das and Harendra Narain Choudhuri, Naib Ahilkars, both of whom had considerable experience in the matter, went into the details and estimated the amount of increase, which might be obtained, at Rs. 8,540. The estimate was however a rough one and there were some mistakes in it; in adding up the figures Rs. 1,000 was not taken into account and on the other hand some items were not correctly calculated. The old jama of Rs. 14,147 for Bilat Bishguri includes Rs. 1,276, the jama for lands newly settled in the course of the operations from before 1306 when the new settlement would come into force. The jama for these newly settled lands at new rates is Rs. 1,482; this amount forms a part of the new jama of Rs. 21,105. If Rs. 1,276 and Rs. 1,482 be deducted from the old and the new jama of Rs. 14,147 and Rs. 21,105 respectively, the balances are Rs. 12,871 and Rs. 19,623; the difference between these items, which is Rs. 6,752, is the increase obtained from old Jotes. If to this be added the increase of Rs. 1,482 secured by settlement of unassessed lands, the total increase for which the Settlement Department can take credit is found to be Rs. 8,234. A considerable

portion of the increase is due to Laik Patit lands having been brought under cultivation, and to the increase in the rate for Laik Patit land from 1 to 2 annas.

80. In connection with the subject of increase we are to remember that 19,908 Bighas of land were kept *Khas* for a reserve shooting forest under Your Highness' special orders. There were petitions for the settlement of 4,462 Bighas out of the large quantity referred to above, and the increase expected was Rs. 639. Other petitions for settlement were coming in when the order regarding the reserve forest was received. Besides the *Khas* land in the reserve forest there are other unassessed lands in different Taluks. The greater portion of Taluk Buxirbos Putimari, which is one of the 9 Taluks in Gird Chowra, has also been reserved; the quantity of land which will remain excluded from settlement there is about 10,118 Bighas.

81. It will be seen that in Taluk Jari Dhurla Nuddee the jama has risen from Rs. 511 to Rs. 1,022. Here two patit lands had been brought under cultivation.

82. At the time of the preparation of the statements for the settlement completion report a list was made of all lands supposed to be capable of being leased out, but which had not been dealt with in the course of the resettlement operations. These included all assessable lands with the exception of (a) unsettled lands situated in Bilat Bishguri and the 9 Taluks in Gird Chowra which are being resettled, (b) lands used for public purposes, (c) *Khas* forests and (d) new accretions. It was thought that with an establishment consisting of 6 Mappers and 1 Peshkar and costing Rs. 1,611 only, steps might be taken to resettle the lands in 3 months. *Khas* and relinquished Jotes which were shewn in the registers in the sub-divisional offices were excluded from the proposal. The increase in revenue, which might be obtained by the settlement of the lands, was estimated at Rs. 1,700. I laid the matter before Your Highness in Council, and the proposal of concluding the settlements having met with your approval, the work was taken up by the Settlement Department in the middle of January last. In the original list there were 654 items, out of which the papers for 128 had been sent before to Mathabhangra and Mekligunj. These 654 items had reference to 17,998 Bighas of land. After deducting the 128 items for Mathabhangra and Mekligunj there remained 526 items; from these again 94 items for *khas* jotes were deducted and there were 432 to be dealt with, to which were added 108 cases received from sub-divisions. There was thus a total of 540 items with 11,602 Bighas of land, of which enquiries were completed regarding 295. As regards 129 items no steps could be taken as the lands had either been already settled by the Revenue Department or they had diluviated. Enquiries about 116 items remained pending at the close of the year. The quantity of land involved in the 295 cases enquired into was 5,898 Bighas and the total revenue assessed Rs. 2,038, which already exceeds the total increase estimated before and referred to above by more than Rs. 300. Some more revenue is expected from the land in the remaining 116 items of the list. But a larger increase will really be obtained as I have made over to the Settlement Department the pending cases relating to settlement of new accretions. The great earth-quake of June 1897 dried up the beds of several beels; additional lands thus became fit for settlement. The work has therefore grown in importance. On the whole an increase of more than Rs. 3,500 is expected.

83. There were 71 cases pending at the close of March 1897. The number instituted during the year was 335 and that transferred from other courts 215. These made up a grand total of 621 cases, of which 176 cases were disposed of by Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhuri and 445 cases remained pending at the close of the year. Of the pending cases 386 appertained to the settlement of patches of *khas* lands; these were instituted towards the end of the year. As soon as the assessment paper of a piece of *khas* land is ready and the paper is received from the Peshkar the notice for settlement is issued; it is then that the *nathar* is entered in the Settlement Officer's Case Register.

84. As stated in my last report Bilat Bishguri borders on the Zemindary of Ghurla in District Goalpara and on Choto Gooma, a *khas* Mehal in the Eastern Duars in Assam. There were boundary disputes with both these estates. Peshkar Munshi Nassaruddin was deputed to the work of laying the entire eastern boundary, and the Settlement Naib Ahilkar Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhuri visited the disputed places when necessary. The survey was made in accordance with the map prepared by Mr. R. H. Renny at places which adjoined the Zemindary of Ghurla; and so far as Choto Gooma was concerned the boundary had to be fixed with reference to that map and also the Thakbust map prepared by Mr. O'Donel. The work appears to have been carefully done.

85. The subjoined table compares the amount of miscellaneous work done and the income derived from stamps by the Settlement Department during the last two years.

	1896-97.	1897-98.
No. of petitions filed	122	468
No. of reports made	180	208
No. of Purwanahs issued	54	85
No. of Robocaries recorded	28	50
No. of processes issued	239	1762
No. of papers received from other offices	195	298
No. of statements filed	289	1482
No. of English letters issued	108	162
No. of bills drawn	85	124
AMOUNT OF STAMP REVENUE OBTAINED ...	Judicial stamps Rs. 457 8 7	411 8 0
	Court-fee stamps „ 85 0 0	45 8 0

86. It will be observed that except under the head of Perwanahs issued the work has increased in every respect.

87. Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhuri was also engaged in compiling the settlement completion report. Some chapters were prepared and the drafts shewn to me in September. As the various statements showing the result of settlement could not be got ready till November the work was delayed. The settlement office was located at the Sudder and Babu Harendra Narain, who was also the Sub-divisional officer of Toofangunge, had to come to the Sudder for 10 or 12 days every month for supervising settlement work. The collection of facts for the part on administrative history required reference to papers in the record-rooms at the Sudder. As Babu Harendra Narain had constantly to move between Fulbari and Cooch Behar the continuity of the work was broken. It was unfortunate also that Babu Harendra Narain's bad health prevented him from working as hard as he wished. In view of these circumstances and also that he might pay greater attention to the remaining settlement work, he was relieved of the charge of the Toofangunge Sub-divisional office from the 7th February last. He hoped to finish the work before the end of May, but he was laid up with severe illness and was obliged to take 3 months' privilege leave.

88. Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhuri is an able and experienced officer; his failure to give full satisfaction is due to bad health only. I was anxious to see that a junior officer was trained up in settlement work. Sub-Naib Ahilkar Babu Pramatha Nath Chatterjee was therefore appointed to act as Settlement officer; he is willing and intelligent and has already shewn aptitude for the work. Munshi Nassaruddin Peshkar continues to do good service; his experience has been of the greatest use to successive settlement officers.

SECTION III.—EXCISE REVENUE.

89. In my last report I stated that the excise collections for 1896-97, amounting to Rs. 87,612-13-3, were higher than those for any previous year. The late rice for that year, however, failed and when country spirit outstills and ganja and opium shops were settled by auction for 1897-98 the prices of food-grains were unusually high and there was distress amongst the people. The Abkars therefore offered reduced jama and as a consequence the current demand came down from Rs. 87,300-13-3 in 1896-97 to Rs. 75,853-0-3 in the year of report. Together with an arrear demand of Rs. 494-7-6 the total demand amounted to Rs. 76,347-7-9, of which Rs. 76,135-14-3 was collected and Rs. 211-9-6 only remained due. No remission had to be granted during the year. The details are shewn in the statement hereto appended.

90. The following table compares the collections under each head for the last two years:—

PARTICULARS.	Collections for 1896-97.	Collections for 1897-98.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. A P.	Rs. A P.	Rs. A P.	Rs. A P.
Revenue derived from country spirit ...	81,168 8 0	26,563 10 9	.....	4,599 18 3
License-fees for imported liquor shops ...	288 0 0	288 0 0	.....	.....
Duty on Gunja ...	19,971 7 6	18,876 12 8	.....	1,094 11 3
License-fees of Gunja shops ...	15,278 2 6	12,862 12 6	.....	2,910 6 0
Ditto on Opium shops ...	8,682 11 6	2,646 6 9	.....	1,036 4 9
Duty on Opium ...	14,893 6 0	13,234 0 0	.....	1,659 6 0
Duty on imported spirits ...	1,982 1 0	1,817 4 0	.....	164 18 0
Miscellaneous collections ...	358 8 9	347 0 0	.....	11 8 9
TOTAL ...	87,612 13 3	76,135 14 3	.....	11,476 15 0

91. *Country spirit.*—It will be observed that during the year under report the collections under this head amounted to Rs. 26,563-10-9 against Rs. 31,163-8 of the previous year, shewing a decrease of Rs. 4,599-13-3. This was due to decrease in the demand caused by the rise in the price of food-grains. The number of outstills continued the same as in the previous year, viz. 20. There was much distress amongst the lower classes during the early months of the year and there was therefore decrease in consumption. It is reported that there was no reduction in the price of liquor.

92. *Imported spirit.*—The number of bottles of European spirit imported during the year of report was 4,846 against 5,285½ of the previous year. There was thus a decrease of 439½ bottles in consumption and of Rs. 164-13 in the collection of duty. This decrease is small. It may be that the number of bottles bought by tea planters was not as large as in the previous year. A portion of the decrease may be attributed to distress amongst the people.

93. *Ganja.*—The consumption of Ganja fell from 68 mds. 23 srs. 11chs. in the previous year to 61 mds. 39 srs. 7 chs. in the year under report. There was therefore a decrease of 6 mds. 24 srs. 4 chs. in consumption and of Rs. 1,094-11-3 in duty. There was also a falling off in the collection of license-fees to the extent of Rs. 2,910-6.

94. *Opium.*—There was a decrease of 1 md. 8 srs. 24 chs. in the consumption of this drug and of Rs. 1,659-6 in the collection of duty and of Rs. 1,036-4-9 in that of license-fees. In the case of opium and ganja also the decreases were due to the prevailing distress.

95. During the year under report 7 persons were prosecuted for breach of excise laws against 24 of the previous year. 5 persons were convicted and 2 discharged.

96. The question of investing all Sub-divisional officers with excise powers has been under consideration. Besides the Excise Officer the Naib Ahlikar of Mekkilgunj only exercises these powers at present.

SECTION IV.—TREASURY AND STAMP REVENUE.

97. The charge of the Treasury rested with Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterji up to the 8th February and with Babu Rajkrishna Das during the remaining portion of the year.

98. The opening balance for the year under report amounted to Rs. 8,39,354 and the closing balance to Rs. 9,37,744. The latter amount included Rs. 1,38,948 belonging to Government and Rs. 2,84,863 on account of funds and deposits. The total receipts in the treasury amounted to Rs. 38,39,129 against Rs. 30,08,413 of the previous year and the disbursements to Rs. 37,40,789 against Rs. 30,49,765. The Government Loan of 2 lacs for the extension of the Railway to Alipore was received during the year in 2 instalments; the amount was shewn under General Deposit and then transferred to Railway Loan; it had afterwards to be transferred to deposit in favor of the Manager, Eastern Bengal State Railway; ultimately it was credited to Government. The different transfer entries swelled the receipts and the disbursements. There were increases on other accounts also.

99. The following table compares the challans received and the bills paid as also the numbers of currency notes received and issued during the last 2 years. —

YEAR.	No. of challans credited.	No. of bills paid.	CURRENCY NOTES RECEIVED.		CURRENCY NOTES ISSUED.	
			No.	Value.	No.	Value.
1896-97	...	4,410	8,841	Ra. 16,538	16,443	Ra. * 12,74,025
1897-98	...	4,318	10,685	18,616	14,950	14,70,625

100. There was a large increase in the number of bills paid. Payments on account of railway, schools &c., increased. Remittances on account of Government amounted to Rs. 6,46,000, of which Rs. 2,96,000 was paid to local merchants under orders received in the Treasury. The Treasury also sold Government stamps worth Rs. 22,896-7-3 of the description noted in the margin*.

101. As shewn in the statement hereto appended the value of stamps of all sorts sold during the year of report, amounted to Rs. 1,80,829-6-4, out of which Rs. 5,314-4-0 was paid as commission to vendors. The net amount credited in the accounts was thus Rs. 1,75,515-2-4, which exceeded that for the previous year by Rs. 4,385. The details for the last 2 years are shewn in the following comparative table:—

	1896-97.			1897-98.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Judicial Stamps...	94,326	8	0	1,03,437	8	0	9,041	0	0	.....	.....	.....
Documentary Stamps	37,182	12	0	29,069	0	0	.....	.....	.....	8,113	12	0
Court-fee Do.	35,938	8	0	38,775	12	0	2,837	4	0	.....	.....	.....
Copying-fee Do.	2,594	12	0	2,830	13	3	236	1	3	.....	.....	.....
Cartridge papers	826	14	3	764	4	9	.....	.....	.....	62	9	6
Miscellaneous	191	0	0	637	12	4	446	12	4	.....	.....	.....
Total	1,71,130	6	8	1,75,515	2	4	4,384	12	1	.....	.....	.....

102. It will be seen that there was an increase of Rs. 9,041 under Judicial Stamps, Rs. 2,837 under Court-fee and Rs. 236 under copying-fee Stamps. These increases are attributable to increase in the numbers of civil and rent suits and of revenue cases instituted during the year. All the judicial officers of the State are of opinion that the institutions increased because the ryots got splendid harvests last year, and their creditors were anxious to recover the monies lent during the previous year, when there had been so

much distress. The Mahajans were more busy in making recoveries than in granting new loans, and many people did not moreover stand in need of borrowing money afresh; the result was a large decrease in documentary stamps amounting to Rs. 8,114. I have seen the annual report of the Registrar of Deeds; he has shewn a decrease of 426 deeds in the number registered, but we are to remember that there is always a very large number of deeds which are never brought to the Registry Office. I made enquiries from some influential Mahajans; they say they are not now as willing to lend monies to ryots as before, as difficulties are raised by the latter when attempts are made to effect recoveries. But I also think that many ryots are trying to become independent of the Mahajans.

103. The amount for Your Highness' personal expenses was raised from Rs. 4,06,000 to Rs. 4,56,090; out of this Rs. 1,50,000 was for the payment of outstanding bills and the remaining Rs. 3,06,090 for current expenses inclusive of Rs. 6,000 for the Palace grounds. In my last report I stated that the balance due for old bills in the Treasury was Rs. 65,814 on the 31st March 1897, and that an examination of the accounts showed that there were further liabilities. The total of all liabilities was taken to be 3 lacs, out of which Rs. 1,50,000 was provided in the budget for 1897-98 and the remainder in that for the current year. During the year of report bills for Rs. 1,42,155-12-4 were received from the Private Secretary, the English bills amounting to Rs. 2,640-6-6 and the Indian bills to Rs. 1,39,515-5-10. The amount actually paid during the last year was Rs. 1,49,233-12-10 and the balance due on account of the old bills in the Treasury on the 31st March 1898 was Rs. 58,735-7-3. There are, however, English bills other than those received in the Treasury, and the amounts due to Benson were larger than those shewn in para 94 of my last annual report. I had a long interview with Mr. C. Plowden, the Private Secretary, and he said that the English bills amounted in all to £ 11,000 and that if we paid him a lac of Rupees from the Treasury during the present year, he would try to adjust the whole account, as he expected to recover some monies due to Your Highness and also to effect some savings. He is now engaged in this work in England. I have said above that the balance due on account of old bills in the Treasury on the 31st March 1898 was Rs. 58,735-7-3; this includes monies due for some English bills which Mr. Plowden will pay. There will also be some decrease on account of interest. The amount due for Indian bills in the Treasury is Rs. 39,632-3-3; in fact the Treasury will have to deal directly with these bills only during the present year. It has recently under Your Highness' orders paid Rs. 10,000 to Hamilton & Co. for a bill not included in the old list; this amount will have to be added to the above amount of Rs. 39,635-3-3.

104. If Mr. Plowden succeed to adjust the account for English bills the following items only, out of those shewn in para 94 of my last Annual Report, will remain to be dealt with next year:—

Advance remitted to England	...	...	20,000
Old advances from Treasury	...	...	14,305*

105. All Benson's claims and the account overdrawn in England are included in the English bills with which the Private Secretary will deal. The private loan has already been paid off and the Indian bills have been or will be dealt with by the Treasury. It will thus be seen that our position as regards old bills is much better than it was before. The advances, which will remain to be dealt with, are due to Your Highness yourself, and when they are adjusted there will be a corresponding increase on the receipt side.

106. We have besides paid off fully the balance due on account of the Government loan.

107. The constant change of officers in the Treasury is rather inconvenient. A new officer takes time to learn the details in order to be able to check the work done by the assistants. There was an accumulation of arrears as regards objection statements during the time of Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterjee. The confusion caused by the earth-quake increased his difficulties. He himself is a

*A portion of the Rs. 10,000 was adjusted last year.

clever officer, and I am sure if he had continued in charge of the Treasury he would have been able to clear up matters. Babu Raj Krishna Das is intelligent and careful; he also possesses experience. He came to the Treasury for a short time only. Babu Shidheswar Ghosh Accountant works hard, though his health has not been good. Babu Basanta Kumar Roy, Treasurer, has been doing his work satisfactorily.

SECTION V.—OFFICES AT THE RAJBARI.

108 Babu Chandra Kamal Lahiry continued to hold charge of the Duar office throughout the year.

109. During the year under report the total amount disbursed by the Duar Muktear on account of allowances &c. was Rs. 96,476 against Rs. 97,301 of the previous year, shewing a decrease of Rs. 825 which was due to general savings. The amount expended in the Debutter Department was Rs. 31,946, which included Rs. 532 on account of expenses incurred by the Duar Muktear for the maintenance of the Kamateswari Thakurani at Gosanimari for the period we had to keep charge of the management of the Thakurbari, after the confusion caused by the earth-quake of the 12th June.

110. Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India, completed the sixtieth Year of her reign in June 1897. The Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty's Reign was to be celebrated all over Her vast dominions, and Your Highness was anxious to suitably mark the occasion in your State. You were pleased to communicate the following orders to the Council in a letter addressed on the 6th June 1897:—

1st. In consideration of the hardship caused by the failure of the crops in 1896-97 to ryots in the State and in the Zemindaries a remission of a lakh of Rupees was to be granted.

2nd. Pundit Shidha Nath Vidyabagish was to be invested with the title of *Mahamahadhyapaka* in recognition of his vast erudition and of the services rendered by him to Sanskrit literature.

3rd. Babu Satis Chandra Mustafi and Monmohan Buxi, two of the leading land-owners in the State, were to be granted the privilege of using Asha and Sota.

4th. The balance of a loan granted to Rajguru Hari Lal Goswami was to be remitted in consideration of his distressed condition.

5th. Sixty Bighas of land to be granted as Lakheraj to the Raj Sadashya family.

6th. The following life allowances to be granted.

Dhanbor Murungia (in consideration of his old age and poverty) ... Rs. 3

Abal Nashya Fakir (a blind man) ... " 3

Abharsa Das (a leper) ... " 3

Ichhamoyi Dehya (mother of Kailash Chandra Buxi, Malcutchery

Munshi, whose ancestors served the State faithfully for several

generations)... " 5

7th. The distinction of a seat at Durbar was to be conferred on Babu Ganga Bisheo Patwar, in recognition of the works of public utility done by him.

8th. Six convicts, of whom two were under going transportation in the Andamans, were to be released.

9th. As a permanent memorial of the distinguished Reign of the Empress a ghat was to be built on the east side of the Sagardighi tank and this ghat and the new railway bridge over the Torra river, which was to be the largest bridge in the State, were to be named after the Empress, viz. the "Victoria Ghat" and the "Victoria Bridge".

There were also to be distribution of alms, illuminations and other festive rejoicings in the capital of Your Highness as also at the Sub-divisional stations and in the Zemindaries.

The dates fixed for the celebration were the 21st and the 22nd June, which were to be observed as close holidays all over the State and the Zemindaries. A Durbar was also to be held on the 21st.

111. While we were all busy in making the necessary preparations there occurred on the 12th June the disastrous earth-quake, which destroyed Your

Highness' Palace and many of the public buildings. All people were terrified and the orders for the rejoicings had to be countermanded. But the acts of benevolence, referred to above, were all done; only alms could not be distributed and the pucca ghât could not be built. There were similar disappointments in other parts of Bengal.

112. Some time after the earth-quake Your Highness offered your services to the British Government and asked for permission to join the force under General Yeatman-Biggs in the N. W. Frontier. The permission being obtained you left Darjeeling on the 30th August 1897 and Calcutta on the 1st September; you hastened to the frontier without stopping anywhere. Your Highness was on the General's staff. You were present at the fights which took place on the Samana range during September. General Yeatman-Biggs thanked you in his despatch describing the Kohat-Kurram operations. You next joined the Tirah Expeditionary Force and marched towards the Sampaga Pass with the Second Division under General Yeatman-Biggs. You were present at the taking of Dargai on the 20th October. You entered Tirah with the force. The dangers you had to pass through and the hardships you had to suffer were many. General Sir William Lockhart acknowledged Your Highness' services in his despatch and they were fully recognised by the Secretary of State. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India wrote an autograph letter to you conveying the congratulations of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. When the difficult work in the Tirah valley was nearly over you returned to Calcutta on the 18th November and, after a stay of a little more than two months there, you were pleased to come to Cooch Behar on the 26th January 1898.

113. Your Highness was the first Native Prince who had offered his services to the Suzerain power. Your people and officers were therefore proud, and they were very happy when they saw you return safe from the country of the treacherous Afridis, and they were anxious to accord you a hearty reception in your State. I had the honor of meeting you at Gitaldah where you entered your territory. Thousands of people were present on the river bank to pay their respects. There were triumphal arches at different places. All the railway stations were decorated and large numbers of people welcomed you everywhere. Hundreds of songs in your praise had been composed; they were sung by boys at different places as you passed. The Superintendent of the State and the Civil and Sessions Judge received Your Highness at the Torsa Station, and you were received by the people in general on the left bank of the Torsa, where Shamianas and tents had been pitched. A large number of school boys stood on the high bank of the river with flags in their hands, and they sang a beautiful song composed by the Head Master of the Jenkins' School, as your decorated raft approached the bank. The sepoys, the Police, the elephants, and the mace-bearers all stood in rows at different places. All the officers and the principal residents were in the Durbar Shamiana. Out-side were thousands of people all crying "বর বরাদ্দ বরাদ্দ!" The sight was very imposing and the reception very hearty. Addresses were presented and replies given. Maharajkumar Jitendra Narayan stood behind Your Highness' seat while all this was going on, and Mr. Henry, Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, and Mrs. Henry were amongst the visitors. Your Highness then came to the tin house kept ready for you. The repairs to the north wing of the Palace were then going on. In the afternoon there was distribution of alms and in the evening there were illuminations and fire-works. The officers gave an evening party to Your Highness on the 8th February in the Durbar Shamiana pitched on the Parade ground; the eldest Maharajkumar Raj Rajendra Narayan and Maharajkumar Jitendra Narayan were present at the party. The principal land-holders and other residents gave a garden party in the Narendra Narayan Park on the 11th February. Your Highness was very gracious to people at these parties and they all looked happy.

114. Another important event was the visit of the eldest Maharajkumar Raj Rajendra Narayan. He had gone to England some time ago and got himself admitted into the Eton College. He made very satisfactory progress in his

studied there. He came to Cooch Behar on a short visit. A formal reception was given to him. Your Highness ordered that he was to receive a salute of 9 guns and to have the following insignia:—

1	Horse with Danka	...	...	...	...	1
2	Horse suitably caprisoned	...	...	...	...	1
3	Elephant skitably caprisoned	...	...	...	...	1
4	Sowars	...	...	...	...	2
5	Flag-bearers	...	...	...	...	2
6	Gold Umbrella	...	...	...	...	1
7	Ditto Arani	...	...	...	...	1
8	Peacock-feather Punkha	...	...	...	...	1
9	Murchal	...	...	...	...	1
10	Khasbarder	...	...	...	...	2
11	Bhapla bardar	...	...	...	...	2
12	Gold Bullums	...	...	...	...	2
13	Silver do.	...	...	...	...	2
14	Gold Asha and Sota	...	...	...	...	2
15	Silver ditto	...	...	...	...	2
16	Silver Jhari	...	...	...	...	1
17	Ditto Suraidhara	...	...	...	...	1
18	Gold Chamar	...	...	...	...	1
19	Sepoys with Havildar	...	...	...	...	16
20	Constables with Head constable	...	...	...	...	8

115. During the year under report 10,439 patients attended the Ayurvedic Dispensary against 10,923 of the previous year. There was thus a decrease of 484 in the total number and of 2 in the average daily attendance. This was due to the general healthiness of the year. The total expenditure on account of the Dispensary amounted to Rs. 1,489. The want of a compounder continues to be much felt and I have received a reference from the Duar Mukhtear on the subject

116. Sudha Priya Aye, a lady belonging to the Andar of the late Kumar Barjendra Narayan, and Debendra Narayan, a son of the late Kumar Tejendra Narayan, died during the year.

117. Your Highness proceeded to Darjeeling on the 14th May 1897 in company with Her Highness the Maharani and returned to Cooch Behar on the 8th June 1897. You again left this on the 23rd June and did not come back until the 26th January 1898. Her Highness the Maharani paid a short visit to Cooch Behar in February last.

118. The earth-quake of the 12th June destroyed the Palace, and temporary arrangements had to be made for accommodating Your Highness and the children. The Thakurbari in the Town of Cooch Behar was also much damaged. All ceremonies and periodical Pujahs were duly performed during the year. The Rash festival was celebrated with the usual pomp.

119. The Pooneah Durbar was held by Your Highness on the 3rd May 1897.

120. During the year of report 4,505 persons against 4,818 of the previous year obtained food at the Anaudamoyi Dharmasala.

121. Babu Chandra Kamal Lahiry continues to discharge his duties satisfactorily.

SECTION VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

122. *Benares*.—Babu Syama Charan Sannyal was the State Agent in Benares throughout the year. He disbursed Rs. 13,361, against Rs. 14,118 of the previous year, on account of allowances of the ladies of the Palace residing there and of expenses of Thakurbaries. As the price of food-grains continued high during the first portion of the year an additional grant of Rs. 644 was sanctioned for the expenses of the Chhatra; the amount was met from the general savings of the Benares Budget. There were no casualties amongst the ladies of the Palace living in Benares, and all of them kept good health. Your Highness was pleased to make a free gift of the building, ordinarily known as the Debnathpur house in Benares, to Babus Siteah Chandra and Jadub Chandra Sannyal, sons of the late Dewan Nil Kamal Sannyal.

123. *Repairs to the Kamakhya temple*.—In January 1895 an appeal for aid was received from some gentlemen of Gowhati, who had formed themselves into a committee, called the Kamakhya Temple Repair Committee, with the object of raising the necessary funds and repairing the temples of the Kamakhya Thakurani as well as all the old temples in Assam. The Kamakhya temples are the oldest temples in Assam. Maharajah Nara Narayan, the second king of Cooch Behar, who is also known as Malla Narayan, after conquering Assam in 1562-63 built them on the ruins of the first temple destroyed, like many other Hindu temples, by the Mahomedans. There are the main temple for the Kamakhya Devi and two Nat Mandira, called the Pancharatna and the Nabaratna, the whole enclosed by a brickwall. There is also another temple of Kali outside the wall. In the Pancharatna there are the images of Maharajah Nara Narayan and his brother and commander-in-chief Shukladhwaja. These two images are highly respected and garlands are offered to them by all pilgrims who go to the Thakurbari. Over the door-way of the Pancharatna there is a silver plate, in which are engraven the following slokas containing the praises of the Maharajah and his brother and the year viz 1487 Shaka, in which the temples were constructed.

“লোকান্তঃপ্রবাহকঃ কল্পণা পূর্ণোৎসবঃ।
দানেশ্বরি দ্বীপিকর্ণ সঙ্কশো মধ্যদত্তোত্তমঃ।

নামাশ্রয় বিচার চাক চরিতঃ কল্পণ রূপোদ্ধনঃ।
কামাখ্যাচরণার্জকে বিজয়তে শ্রীমদনবোদ্ধনঃ।

ভট্টস্বয় প্রিয়সোদয়ঃ পূর্ণশাব্যবস্রোতঃ।
মৌলিন্দনী মণিকায় ভজমান কল্পবিটপী নীলাচলে মঙ্গলঃ।

প্রাসাদঃ সুনিমান বেদ শশংসাকে শিলাসজ্জিতদেবী ভক্তি যতঃসরে রচিতবান্ শ্রীপূর্ণোৎসবঃ।”

The Kamakhya Thakurani is maintained by the income, amounting to Rs. 4,000, derived from grants of Debutter lands originally made, it is said, by the Maharajah and subsequently upheld by successive Governments. Flowers offered to the Thakurani (Nirmalya) are regularly sent to the Cooch Behar Rajbari. In consideration of the fact that the temples were built by one of Your Highness' ancestors and also of the archæological interest which they possess, Your Highness was pleased to sanction the payment in two years of the entire cost of repairing them, which had been estimated at Rs. 3,200. The Council addressed the Administration of Assam on the subject, and the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup was asked by the Chief-Commissioner to render such indirect assistance as was necessary. The payments were made through the Deputy Commissioner. The last instalment was paid during the year of report. It is hoped the monetary aid given by Your Highness will enable the Committee to save the temples from ruin.

124. *Bijni Estate*.—The circumstances under which the protection of Your Highness, as the head of the family, was sought for by, and granted to, Kumar Lalit Narayan of Bijni, some time after the death of Rajah Kumud Narayan Bhup, and a suit was instituted by the Kumar against Rani Abhayeswari for the declaration of his right to the Guddee, have been fully stated in separate reports submitted to Your Highness. A repetition of these circumstances is not considered necessary in the report. The suit was compromised during the year of report. The principal terms agreed upon were:—

1st. That the Kumar should renounce all claims to the Bijni Estate in favor of the Rani and that she in her turn should settle on him an allowance of Rs. 200 per month, which, on the liquidation of her liabilities, would be raised to Rs. 400, and

2ndly.—That the Rani would undertake to repay Kumar Lalit Narayan's liabilities to the Cooch Behar State to the extent of Rs 70,000 by an annual instalment of Rs 10,000.

The necessary deeds were duly executed and registered. A decree was also obtained against the Rani for Rs. 36,605, being the amount advanced to her by Your Highness. Under the terms of the decree the money was to be repaid with interest at 3 per cent per annum in 5 years. Babu Narendra Nath Sen was in special charge of this work and all preliminaries regarding the compromise were settled by him under Your Highness' sanction. He afterwards reverted to his substantive appointment in the State.

125. *Bunders.*—Two new European firms opened business at the Haldibari Bunder during the year of report. Owing to briskness of the jute market there was a large increase in the quantity of jute brought to the Bunder, which accounts for the increase from 68,265 in 1896-97 to 95,111 in the year of report in the number of jute carts, and from Rs. 8,533.2 to Rs. 11,888.14 in the collection of tolls levied on them. This was the highest amount ever shown in our accounts. Though the trade was very brisk at first it became dull afterwards and the price came down.

126. I visited Haldibari in February last and found that people, who had been anxious to take land on the south and open new places of business, were not coming forward. This was no doubt due to the state of the market. Many Marwari Mahajans had large quantities of unsold jute in stock. On the whole however the place was growing. The Town Committee had not made much progress in any work when I went; only one road had been made. I pointed out to the Naib Ahilkar of Mekligunj, who was the Chairman, the necessity of being careful in laying out roads, in giving proper slopes to their sides and in cutting the side drains. The sides of the drains also should have slopes. The greatest attention should be paid to the improvement of the hat ground. The Naib Ahilkar saw, that the assistance of a man who had some professional knowledge was necessary. There was money in hand and I trust on the occasion of my next visit I shall see many improvements.

127. I was glad to see that as Chairman of the local Town Committee the Naib Ahilkar of Mathabhanga had been able to open some roads and make other improvements in his town. His estimate for metalling a road had not been properly prepared. The Superintendent of Works and I gave him such advice as we could. He too stands in need of professional advice in important works, and I am sure such advice will be given whenever necessary. The Naib Ahilkar has recorded the following remarks as regards the tobacco trade at the Calicagunj Bunder during the year:—

"Tobacco forms the most important commodity of trade in this Sub-division, but unfortunately the dull market for the last 2 or 3 years considerably affected the commercial interests. Some firms belonging to the Shaha merchants at the Calicagunj Bunder were going to be closed, others suffered heavy losses. The price of tobacco ranged from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 a maund.

The import of tobacco into the Calicagunj Bunder was roughly estimated to be 60,000 mauuds against 64,500 mauuds of the year preceding. Many firms could not extensively purchase for low prices. The import trade of tobacco at the Calicagunj Bunder was worth about Rs. 4,20,000 at an average rate of Rs. 7 a maund."

128. The Cutchery house at Mathabhanga was seriously damaged by the earth-quake; it has been since repaired. Steps have also been taken to repair the pucca school house. It was fortunate that wells in this town did not suffer much.

129. Great things were expected at Chowrahat when the Railway line was opened. Messrs Ralli Brothers and others took lease of lands. But as yet there has not been much increase in the jute trade here. During my tour I recorded the following remarks in my diary on the condition of Chowrahat:—

"Rice trade is not brisk as a splendid harvest has been reaped everywhere and there is no exportation; price of coarse rice is Rs. 3-14 and the first new rice is selling at Rs. 5. Fish imported by rail and also fish from Noonkhawah are being sold. There are many vegetable and other shops. Grounds on both sides of the road are occupied. The hat is in a

flourishing condition. All the land on the three sides of the square to the west has been taken by Mahajans and two new shops are expected to be soon built. Approaches to the hat ground on the east side should be improved ; there should be 2 or 3 culverts.

"The jute market has been dull ; the rate varies from Rs. 2-2 to Rs. 3-6. Messrs. Apoor & Co. have done the best business. They have sent down about 35,000 maunds of jute to Calcutta and have got 15,000 maunds in hand. Hukum Chand has got about 8,000 maunds and other Marwari Mahajans 5,000 maunds. Messrs. Ralli Brothers have yet done no business though they were very anxious to secure land. Mr. Jordon sent down 900 bales only and Khetu Ram Misser 2,500 maunds."

130. The Pucca Cutchery house at Dinbata also was much damaged ; it has been repaired and is being occupied. Steps were taken to repair the pucca wells and to re-excavate the tank near the Thakurbari.

131. *Fairs*.—(Owing to decrease in the number of cattle brought for sale, there was a slight falling off from Rs. 971 in 1896-97 to Rs. 931 in the year of report in the collections at the Haldibari fair, which, as usual, was held in December. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 353 ; there was thus a net gain of Rs. 578 to the State. The value of articles sold is estimated at a lac of rupees.

132. The Dinbata fair was held in April. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 312 against Rs. 277 of the previous year and the receipts to Rs. 1,446 against Rs. 825. The net income thus amounted to Rs. 1,134. This satisfactory result was due to the exertions of, and the improved system of check introduced by, Babu Hari Nath Basu, Naib Ahilkar. The receipts at the Gadadhar fair amounted to Rs. 240 against Rs. 236 of the previous year and those at the Fulbari fair to Rs. 145 against Rs. 116.

133. *Cooch Behar Town*.—The collections in the town amounted to Rs. 14,818 against Rs. 14,545 of the previous year. The increase is partly due to inclusion of certain lands situated on the north of the Maharani Road within town limits. The fright caused by the earth-quake prevented many people from bringing things for sale for some days. The outbreak of cholera also decreased the receipts. Had it not been for these reasons the collections of tax at the daily market would have been larger than they were. Delay having occurred in opening the Railway line to the town no shops and places of business have yet been opened near the Cooch Behar Station. The town suffered much from the earth-quake ; most of the pucca buildings including the Palace, of which we were naturally proud, were seriously damaged. The roads sunk in places.

134. *Disputes relating to the boundary between the State of Cooch Behar and the District of Jalpaiguri*.—The work of demarcating this boundary could not be completed until the current year and Your Highness was pleased to make a further grant of Rs. 1,629 on account of cost of the survey establishment for the additional period for which it had to be employed. The demarcation has also been duly tested and it is believed that the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri will now send the map prepared by the Surveyor to the office of the Surveyor-General of India for the correction of the district boundary. Arrangements will have then to be made for obtaining and giving up possession of lands which have been found to have changed jurisdiction according to the new demarcation.

135. *Sadikhan ferry*.—This is a frontier ferry on the Jaldhaka river near Taluk Sitalguri in Sub-division Mekligunj. It has hitherto been settled by us. In the course of the demarcation of the boundary referred to in the foregoing para it has been found that the river has shifted towards the north and the portion of it where the ferry plies has fallen almost wholly within the limits of the district of Jalpaiguri. The Sub-divisional Officer of the Alipur Duars addressed me on the subject of the future settlement of the ferry and, with the sanction of the Council, it has been decided that it will be settled, like the Kaljani ferry below Alipur, alternately every 3 years by the Naib Ahilkar of Mekligunj and the Sub-divisional Officer, the juma being equally divided between the Cooch Behar State and the British Government.

136. *Boundary dispute between the State of Cooch Behar and the District of Buxpur*.—In the course of the operations connected with the Patit Churcha settlement in 1885, it was found that owing to the shifting of the course of the Teesta river a chur had been formed on the borders of Taluk

Andaran Kuchlibari in the State of Cooch Behar and it had been held by one of our Jotedars as an accretion to his jote in that Taluk. The General Manager of the Wards Estates Rungpur however claimed it as an accretion to Mouza Kharibari belonging to the Zemindar of Tepa, and suggested that with the object of avoiding all disputes the boundary might be relaid with the help of the Thakbust map. I agreed to the proposal. Babu Girish Chandra Sirkar, Deputy Collector, was deputed last year by the Collector of Rungpur to do the work and I directed the Naib Ahilkar of Mekligunj to watch the interests of the State. The Thak Survey could not be followed and the Deputy Collector was of opinion that no correct boundary could be laid without the help of the Revenue Survey maps. There was a dispute about the boundary here so far back as 1860 and Mr. A. G. Macdonald, Special Commissioner appointed by Government, made an enquiry in 1860-61. According to his decision the land would belong to us. It has also been in the possession of our ryots for a very long time. All these circumstances were brought to the notice of the Collector of Rungpur, who however thought that Mr. A. G. Macdonald's decision was not binding on Government, as Government was not a party in the case, and that the Revenue Survey should be followed. He also asked me to give up possession of the land. I have not however been able to comply with his request without being satisfied as to the justice of the claim. The matter is yet pending.

137. *Cooch Behar Mutual Provident Fund.*—This fund was established in 1888 for the benefit of the heirs, successors and relatives of natives and residents of Cooch Behar and of persons residing in Your Highness' Zemindarias, or serving Your Highness elsewhere. It undertakes to pay to the nominee of a subscriber a sum equivalent to the number of members shewn in the books at the time of his death, the money being raised by the collection of a death-call of Re. 1 from each member. Your Highness is the patron of the fund and pays a donation of Rs. 100 annually. From the annual report of the Fund for the last year, a copy of which has been furnished to me by the Secretary, I find that the total number of subscribers was 169. The Secretary states as follows with regard to the benefits derived by the nominees of the deceased subscribers during the last 11 years that the fund has been in existence:—

“Since the creation of the Fund in the year 1888 up to the close of the year 1897, there have been 40 deaths i.e. 3.63 deaths in an average in each year. The total number of paying subscribers for the last 11 years was 2297 i.e. 209 on an average, and there has been 1.74 per cent of deaths amongst the subscribers. The benefit received by one member is Rs. 324, the highest in the year 1890-91, and Rs. 76, the lowest in the year 1888-89. For the last 11 years 40 members, who died, paid on an average Rs. 31 to the fund in the shape of subscriptions and death-calls and secured Rs. 202 for his nominee. The relief will be more appreciable if an increase can be effected in the number of subscribers”.

138. The cash balance of the Fund at the close of the last year amounted to Rs. 6,237-15-6, of which Rs. 6,173-13-8 was deposited in the Government Savings Bank. I trust more of Your Highness' subjects will become subscribers. It is now under contemplation to build a small tin house for the fund. It is gratifying that while the many bogus insurance companies, floated in different parts of Bengal, have ceased to exist, the Cooch Behar Provident Fund is in a flourishing condition.

139. *The earth-quake of the 12th June 1897.*—The Superintendent of the State fully dealt with the subject of the serious damage done by the earth-quake in a report submitted by him to the Council. I would only refer to the damage caused to wells. In most places the beds of wells were upheaved; many pucca wells were damaged and many ordinary wells with earthen rings became unfit for use. It was feared that the want of good drinking water would be very much felt. I submitted to the Council towards the close of October, when there was still water in Khals and ditches, a list of 16 pucca and Ranigunj pipe wells sunk by the State, and proposed that they might be at once repaired. The Council were pleased to sanction the proposal and to grant the money required. This however served to afford partial relief only. In consideration of this fact the subscribers to the Famine Relief Fund, created towards the beginning of the year, placed at our disposal Rs. 4,761-12-3, being the unexpended balance of the fund, in order that the amount might be utilised in removing the want of good drinking

water. The Council decided that the money should be spent partly in giving immediate relief by sinking Norton's tube wells in places where there was immediate want of water, and partly in sinking pucca and Ranigunj pipe wells in other places. I consulted with the Superintendent of Works and the Sub-divisional officers and arranged to have 20 Norton's tube wells at once. Steps were also taken to sink some Ranigunj pipe wells. In some places the people rendered monetary help. The work is being done by the Superintendent of Works.

I have the honor to be

YOUR HIGHNESS'

Most obedient and humble servant,

CALICA DOSS DUTT,

Dewan of Cooch Behar.

No. 303.

FROM

BABU PRIYA NATH DUTT, M.A., B.L.,

Offg. Civil and Sessions Judge, Cooch Behar.

TO

THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL,

COOCH BEHAR.

Dated, Cooch Behar, the 5th 11th July, 1898.

YOUR HIGHNESS,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Annual Report on the Administration of the Civil Justice in the Cooch Behar State for the year 1897-98, to which are annexed the Annual Statements Nos. I to XI.

2. The charge of the office of Civil and Sessions Judge rested with Babu Jadub Chandra Chuckerbutty throughout the year except from the 21st of April to the 4th of June 1897 when he was away on privilege leave and Babu Raj Krishna Das, Assistant Civil Judge, remained in charge of current duties.

Charge of office.

The following table shows the changes in the subordinate offices.

Sub-divisions.	Courts.	Names of Officers.	Terms of employment.
Sudder ...	Assistant Civil Judge's court.	Babu Raj Krishna Das.	1st April to 18th September 1897 and 27th November 1897 to 5th February 1898.
Ditto ...	ditto ...	Babu Narendra Nath Sen.	19th September to 26th November 1897 and 6th February to 31st March 1898.
Ditto ...	Rent Suit Department ...	Babu Pramatha Nath Chatterjee.	1st to 6th April and 25th August to 1st September 1897.
Ditto ...	ditto ...	Babu Satis Chandra Mustafi.	7th April to 24th August 1897 and 2nd September 1897 to 31st March 1898.
Dinhata ...	Naib Ahilkar's court ...	Babu Hari Nath Basu.	1st April 1897 to 31st March 1898.
Ditto ...	Sub-Naib Ahilkar's do....	Babu Rajani Kanta Bhaumick.	1st to 7th April 1897 and 14th May 1897 to 31st March 1898.
Ditto ...	ditto ...	Babu Surendra Nath Chuckerbutty.	8th April to 12th May 1897.
Mathabhanga ...	Naib Ahilkar's do. ...	Babu Ashutosh Ghose.	1st April to 30th May 1897 and 30th June 1897 to 31st March 1898.
Ditto ...	ditto ...	Babu Jagad Balluv Biswas.	31st May to 29th June 1897.
Ditto ...	Sub-Naib Ahilkar's do....	Babu Jagad Balluv Biswas.	1st April 1897 to 31st March 1898.
Mekligunj ...	Naib Ahilkar's do. ...	Babu Padma Nath Das.	1st April 1897 to 31st March 1898.
Toofangunj ...	Naib Ahilkar's do. ...	Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhuri.	1st April 1897 to 6th February 1898.
Ditto ...	ditto ..	Babu Bama Charan Neogi.	7th February to 31st March 1898.
Ditto ...	Sub-Naib Ahilkar's do....	Babu Bama Charan Neogi.	1st April 1897 to 6th February 1898.

Institution of original suits.

3. The original suits instituted during the last 4 years are shown below:—

YEAR.	Civil Suits.	Rent Suits.	Suits of Small Cause Court up to Rs. 20 and Rs. 50.	Total.
1894-95 ...	1,944	4,061	1,570	7,575
1895-96 ...	1,874	3,487	1,862	7,223
1896-97 ...	2,232	4,269	1,512	8,013
1897-98 ...	2,785	5,305	1,393	9,483

There was an increase of 1,470 suits in the number of institutions. Civil suits increased by 553 and Rent suits by 1,036 while Small Cause Court suits up to Rs 50 decreased by 119.

Details of increase and decrease
in the institution.
of the State.

4. The table given below shows the increase and decrease in the institutions in the several Civil Courts

COURTS.	CIVIL SUITS.		RENT SUITS.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Civil and Sessions Judge ... ..	.....	3	1	.....
Assistant Civil Judge ... ..	.....	18	228	.....
Secretary to the State Council in charge Sudder Rent Suit Department.	.....	.....	.....	5
Naib Ahilkar, Dinhata	73	.....	152	.....
Sub-Naib Ahilkar, Dinhata	8	.....	.....	4
Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhanga	218	.....	252	.....
Ditto, Mekhlignunj	55	.....	344	.....
Naib Ahilkar, Toofangunj	99	.....	65	.....
Sub ditto ditto	2	.....	3	.....
Total	455	21	1045	9

Civil suits increased in the Courts of the Naib and the Sub Naib Ahilkars of Dinhata, Naib Ahilkar of Mathabhanga, Naib Ahilkar of Mekhlignunj, Naib and the Sub Ahilkars of Tufangunj by 73, 8, 218, 55, 99, and 2 respectively and decreased in the courts of the Civil and Sessions Judge and the Assistant Civil Judge by 3, 18 respectively as compared with those of the previous year.

Rent suits increased in the Courts of the Civil and Sessions Judge, Assistant Civil Judge, Naib Ahilkar of Dinhata, Naib Ahilkar of Mathabhanga, Naib Ahilkar of Mekhlignunj and Naib and Sub Naib Ahilkars of Tufangunj by 1, 228, 152, 252, 344, 65 and 3 respectively and decreased in the courts of the Sub Ahilkar of Dinhata and the Secretary to the State Council in charge Sudder Rent Suit Department by 4 and 5 respectively as compared with those of the previous year.

The Assistant Civil Judge thus explains the cause of decrease of 18 civil suits and increase of 223 rent suits in the institution, in his court and in the court of the Secretary to the State Council in charge of the Sudder Rent Suit Department:—

"There was a decrease of 31 in the number of civil suits and an increase of 13 in the Small Cause Court suits and 223 in that of rent suits. The increase in the small cause court and decrease in the civil suits are so slight that they do not need any particular notice. They are due to ordinary fluctuations in the institutions. In regard to the apparent decrease of 31, it may be said that in 1896-97 upto the 14th May, the date of the creation of the new Sub-division, the institutions in the Sudder represented what would now be found by summing the totals of the institutions at Sudder and Tufangunj for the corresponding period. The decrease is consequently no decrease at all. But the figures tend to show that the abatement in the institutions, observed from a comparison with the figures for the preceeding year 1895-96, in the civil and Small cause court suits, had continued. This decrease is attributable to the creation of the new Sub-division at Tufangunj. But the increase in the number of rent suits is abnormal. It far exceeds the figure either average or maximum for the past 4 years. This increase in spite of the creation of a new Sub-division marks an unusual state of things. The reason is perhaps to be found in the plentiful harvest which this year under notice, coming after a year of high prices, yielded, rendering it possible for land-lords to realise the arrears which a bad year had caused to accumulate."

As regards the increase of 81, civil suits and 148 rent suits at Dinbata, the Naib Ahilkar of Dinbata remarks:—

"There was an increase of 229 cases in the year under report. The number of suits of Small Cause Court nature increased by 216 and that of Small causes decreased by 135. This increase and decrease are due mainly to the change of jurisdiction in the trial of Small Cause Court Suits of the presiding officers. Babu Shita Nath Banerjee, late Naib Ahilkar had power to try such suits to the value of Rs. 50, while I had power to try them up to the value of Rs. 20 only. The increase in the number of title suits is very trifling. There has been an increase of 148 in the number of rent suits. This is attributable to the tenants' inability to pay rent punctually owing to the scarcity that prevailed at the beginning of the last year and falling off of the prices of jutes and tobacco, two staple crops upon which the tenantry of this State mostly depend for the payments of their rents."

"There is an increase of 80 cases under head "money suits". This is attributable to the people incurring some additional loans upon crops during the scarcity above alluded to".

The Naib Ahilkar of Mathabhanga gives the following reason for the increase of 218 civil and 252 rent suits in the institutions:—

"The general increase in the institution of Rent and Small Cause Court suits is attributable partly to the scarcity keenly felt during the whole of the previous year and the first three months of the year under review and partly to the plenty which subsequently followed from splendid harvest of both the early and late paddy crops. Land-lords who had not sued tenants in their distress were eager to realise the arrears as soon as signs of prosperity returned. Large loans were contracted in the previous year and the creditors were equally eager to recover what they had lent to people in the time of scarcity."

The Naib Ahilkar of Mekligunj in whose court there was an increase of 55 civil and 344 rent suits remarks:—

"It will be seen that although there was a decrease of 19 Small Cause Court suits up to Rs. 20 in the institution, there was an increase of 74 civil and 344 rent suits, so the total institution on the whole increased by 399 as compared with those of the previous year.

"The decrease in the institution of the Small Cause Court suits up to Rs. 20, may be attributed to the good harvest of the year. The ryots got plenty of paddy crops and could easily pay off their small debts to their creditors who had therefore not to go to the court for their recovery. This decrease has been compensated by the institution of suits of Small Cause Court nature above Rs. 20 which is 322 in number against 240 of the previous year."

"The institution of Rent suits was unusually large. This increase and the increase in the institution of Civil suits were generally due to the exceptionally good harvests of the year. The land-lords and the creditors who waited from long time and could not press their claims for the long impending famine appeared before the Court and pressed their claims when they saw that their tenants and debtors would not be able and willing to pay off their debts easily, the crops they got being not sufficient for their manifold wants. The increase in the Rent suits was also partly due to greater number of institution of suits by the Court of Wards."

The Naib Ahilkar of Toofangunj accounts for the increase of 101 Civil suits and 68 Rent suits in the following manner:—

"It would appear that there was an increase in the institution under every class of suits, the total increase being 169. But no regular comparison can be made as the figure of the entire last year is not available. But on the whole there appears to be an increase this year which is chiefly due to the facilities afforded by the opening of the Civil side at the heart of this Sub-division and the bad condition of the people for the last scarcity and earth-quake."

I also think that the increase in the institution of Civil and Rent-suits is mainly due to the fact that the year under report was a year of plenty while the year previous was one of scarcity.

5: Statement No. 2 shows that out of the total of 9483 institutions, 5305 (more than half) were Rent-suits, 2596 less than one third) were suits on bonds and other obligations and 141 ($\frac{1}{67}$) for land and other immovable property. There were 4 cases relating to marriage and 1 to religion. Out of 5305 cases under Act X of 1859, 5393 were for arrears of rent only.

Classification of suits.

Execution of decrees.

table given below:—

6. The number of applications filed for execution of decrees during the last 4 years is shewn in the

YEAR.	Civil Suits.	Rent Suits.	Suits of Small Cause Court up to Rs. 20 and Rs. 50.	Total.
1894-95	1,861	1,770	760	4,391
1895-96	1,675	1,560	848	4,083
1896-97	1,849	1,638	783	4,270
1897-98	2,119	1,845	775	4,739

The number of applications filed for the execution of decrees during the year was 4,739 against 4,270 of the previous year shewing an increase of 469. The increase was due to the increase in original suits.

Miscellaneous cases.

7. The number of miscellaneous cases of both Judicial and Non-Judicial nature instituted during the last two years are shewn below:—

	Judicial.	Non-Judicial.
1896-97	429	148
1897-98	560	103
Increase	131	...
Decrease ... ..	...	45

8. The number of applications for certificates of guardianship under Act XL of 1858 was 26 against 21 of the previous year and the number of applications for certificates under Act XXVII of 1860 was 17 against 16 of the previous year.

Certificate cases.

Rank of Courts according to the number of cases instituted.

9. According to the number of original suits instituted, the several subordinate Courts rank thus:—

(1.) Assistant Civil Judge	2,609
(2.) Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhangra	2,550
(3.) Ditto Dinbata	2,092
(4.) Ditto Mekligunj	1,409
(5.) Ditto Toofangunj	770

In the Sudder, Rent suits below Rs. 1,000 are instituted in the Court of the Assistant Civil Judge and most of them are afterwards transferred to the Sudder Rent Suit Officer for disposal.

Disposal of cases.

10. The disposal of the original suits during the last 4 years is shewn in the statement given below:—

YEAR.	Civil Suits.	Rent Suits.	Suits of Small Cause Court up to Rs. 20 and Rs. 50.	Total.
1894-95	1,948	3,962	1,528	7,438
1895-96	1,940	3,700	1,885	7,525
1896-97	2,159	4,079	1,507	7,745
1897-98	2,745	5,278	1,352	9,375

The total number of original suits disposed of was 9375 against 7745 shewing an increase of 1630 cases. This is satisfactory.

Pending cases. 11. The number of old cases pending at the end of the year was 67 (24 pending over one year and 43 over 6 months) against 89 of the previous year shewing a decrease of 22 cases.

Rank of Courts according to disposals. 12. According to disposals the Subordinate Courts rank thus :—

(1.) Sub-Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhanga ...	...	...	1,674
(2.) Sub-Naib Ahilkar, Dinhata ...	...	...	1,508
(3.) Naib Ahilkar, Mekligunj ...	...	...	1,407
(4.) Assistant Civil Judge ...	...	...	1,302
(5.) Secretary to the State Council in charge Sudder Rent Suit Department.			1,296
(6.) Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhanga ...	...	...	867
(7.) Naib Ahilkar, Dinhata ...	...	...	565
(8.) Sub-Naib Ahilkar, Toofangunj ...	...	...	412
(9.) Naib Ahilkar, Toofangunj ...	...	...	323

13. With regard to the disposal of contested cases the Subordinate Courts stand thus :—

(1.) Assistant Civil Judge ...	...	...	231
(2.) Sub Naib Ahilkar, Dinhata ...	...	...	230
(3.) Secretary to the State Council in charge Sudder Rent Suit Department.			226
(4.) Naib Ahilkar, Mekligunj ...	...	...	175
(5.) Sub-Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhanga ...	...	...	165
(6.) Naib Ahilkar, Dinhata ...	...	...	135
(7.) Naib Ahilkar Mathabhanga ...	...	...	118
(8.) Sub Naib Ahilkar Toofangunj ...	...	...	81
(9.) Naib Ahilkar, Toofangunj ...	...	...	57

Average duration of suits. 14. The table given below shews the average duration of suits in each of the Subordinate Courts :—

NAMES OF COURTS.				Civil Suits.	Rept Suits.	Small Cause Court class suits up to Rs. 20 and Rs. 50.
				m. d.	m. d.	m. d.
Assistant Civil Judge ...	...	...	...	4 19	3 7	2 5
Secretary to the State Council in charge Sudder Rent Suit Department				.....	1 17	.....
Naib Ahilkar, Dinhata ...	...	...	...	2 22	2 11	0 27
Naib Ahilkar, Mathabhanga ...	...	...	...	2 1	2 11	1 1
Naib Ahilkar, Mekligunj ...	...	...	...	1 12	1 12	0 1 1
Naib Ahilkar, Toofangunj ...	...	...	...	2 27	2 8	4 8

The duration was longest in the Court of the Assistant Civil Judge and shortest in that of the Naib Ahilkar of Mekligunj.

Contest.

15. The following table compares the ratio of contest in regular suits for the last 4 years :—

YEAR.	No. of Civil Suits disposed of.	No. of Rent Suits disposed of.	No. of Small Cause Court Class Suits up to Rs. 20 and Rs. 50 disposed of.	Ratio of Civil Suits.	Ratio of Rent Suits.	Ratio of Small Cause Court Suits upto Rs. 20 and Rs. 50.
1894-95	461	688	208	24 %	17 %	14 %
1895-96	476	605	231	25 %	16 %	12 %
1896-97	486	604	196	20 %	15 %	13 %
1897-98,	475	781	171	17 %	15 %	13 %

The total number of contested cases decided was 1427 being about $\frac{1}{7}$ of the entire number of disposals. Every 6th Civil case, every 7th Rent case and every 8th Small Cause Court case were contested.

Summary procedure.

16. The Assistant Civil Judge tried Small Cause Court suits upto Rs 50 and the Naib Ahilkars of Dinhata, Mathabhanga, Mekligunj and Tufangunj upto Rs 20 by summary procedure.

Inspection.

17. The Civil Courts of the Sub-divisions of Dinhata, Mathabhanga, Mekligunj and Tufangunj were inspected by Babu Jadub Chandra Chuckerbutty, Civil and Sessions Judge, during the year under report and the inspection reports of the first two Courts were submitted to Your Highness in Council. The reports of the Mekligunj and the Tufangunj Sub-divisions are in the Press and will be shortly ready for submission. A few extracts from the inspection memoranda are reproduced below :—

DINHATA.

SMALL CAUSE COURT DEPARTMENT.

Case No. 98 of 1897.—The summons on the defendant was served only 2 days before the date of trial. The defendant wanted time for his defence. The Court held that the time was short and the defendant should be allowed time to make his defence. The plaintiff's witnesses were not also present, yet the Naib Ahilkar allowed adjournment fee of Rs. 1 to the plaintiff. This is another instance of indiscreet levy of adjournment fee. The plaintiff's pleader received the money from the defendant and paid it to the Sheristadar then and there for School and Barwari Pujah. It may be observed here that the Naib Ahilkar is the Secretary to the local School. I have had occasion to draw the attention of all concerned to this objectionable practice of mixing up Judicial work with the interest of Education and Barwari. I think the payment of the money to the Sheristadar for the purposes noted above, should at once be stopped. If the parties or their pleaders choose to pay the adjournment fees for Barwari and School, they should do that privately and out of Court. Court officers should have no connection whatever with the money. I went through the judgment of the above case and found that no reason whatever had been shown in the decision for giving a decree to the plaintiff without costs. The Naib Ahilkar with powers of Small Cause Court Judge should always give reasons in the judgments for his orders.

Case No. 96 of 1897.—I find in the judgment that this case has been treated as one in which the defendant was absent. The case has been decreed *ex parte*. The record show that the defendant was present on 4 different occasions. He took out summons and other processes against his witnesses but as he was not present on the day of trial, although his pleader was there, the case was decreed *ex parte*—perhaps the procedure is not right. In Small Cause Court Cases, if the defendant appears on the date of trial, his defence should be at once taken down in the Summons book.

Case No. 45 of 1897.—It appears that on the date of trial the defendant appeared and petitioned the Court for time on the ground of the refusal of his witnesses to attend the Court for the earth-quake. He did not offer to pay any adjournment fee. *Vide* petition. The reason was a perfectly sound one and well worthy of consideration. The Court without mentioning any of the reasons given by the defendant in this petition, signs an order written by the Peshkar to the effect that the defendant volunteers to pay adjournment fee of a rupee and the case is postponed. I must say this is another instance of the abuse of granting adjournment fees. I do not know under whose orders this objectionable practice has found its way in the Judicial Department. The position of the Sub-divisional Naib Ahilkars is very anomalous

and awkward. They should by all means be relieved of this position. I request the Naib Ahilkar to furnish me with copies of orders, if any, under which the adjournment fee is paid to the Sheristadar and entered in a book of the office kept by him and the half of the money is subsequently paid for the Barwari Pajah and the other half challaned by him to the Treasury for the local School.

EXECUTION DEPARTMENT.

Case No. 105 of 1896-97.—Istahar was not published for want of a person on behalf of the decree-holder to point out the property. The peon should have done the needful with the assistance of Chowkidars. No notice seems to have taken of this. The Accountant should look sharp and the Naib Ahilkar should look to this.

The date in the original Istahar could be easily changed. Istahar not published. Nothing in the records to show why the proclamation was not published. The Naib Ahilkar should have gone into this.

CIVIL DEPARTMENT.

Execution Case No. 64 of 1897.—It does not appear from the records whether copies of proclamation were stuck up in the office of the Collector and in the Civil Judge's Court. I find the provisions of section 249 of Act VIII of 1859 are not acted up to as regards the number of proclamations which must be stuck up in the several offices. The Naib Ahilkar will be good enough to introduce the provisions at once and report his having done so in a week. A further report must be sent to me after 3 months from this day informing me that the provision of law is being acted upto.

I am sorry that the Dewany mohurer is grown old and cannot therefore do his work satisfactorily.

ACCOUNTANT'S DEPARTMENT.

The Accountant says it will be convenient if registration receipts of a day is entered in the General Cash Book on the next day. The reason he gives is that he had on occasions to await till night for the Registration receipt to come in. I think his proposal may be accepted. He should submit a report on the subject in due course.

MATHABHANGA.

SMALL CAUSE COURT DEPARTMENT.

"Register of Execution Cases.—It appears that almost all the cases had to be struck off for default of the decree-holders to take out proper steps. The mohurer in charge of the department believes that these decrees are generally settled out of Court and the decree-holders do not come to inform the court about the satisfaction of their claims."

"I brought to the notice of the State Council already that we could safely increase the monetary jurisdiction of the Naib Ahilkars in Small Cause Court cases to Rs. 50. The Naib Ahilkar of Mathabhangha said that in that case it would perhaps be necessary to increase the monetary jurisdiction of the Sub-Naib Ahilkar. That also can be safely done. We have provision for it in the Jurisdiction Act already."

CIVIL DEPARTMENT.

"Execution Case No. 92 of 1897.—I find that the requisite number of sale proclamations is issued from the office in every case, namely 2 are sent to the Civil Judge's office, 1 to the State Press for publication in the Gazette, 1 to the Malcutchery of the Sub-division, 1 to the *Sudder Daroja* of the Sub-divisional office and 1 is fixed on the property to be sold. The original copy is filed with the records of the case."

"It is satisfactory to find that both the Dewani and the Rent Mohurers do their duties efficiently. Both the Mohurers are hard worked. Formerly there used to be apprentices in all the Sheristas. It is not easy to find them now. There is only one man in the Dewani Sherista. The man in the Rent Suit Sherista is a native of Cooch Behar. He has made himself scarce since the last few days."

ACCOUNTANT'S DEPARTMENT.

"I am glad to find that there are no deposits of more than 6 months' standing. The diet-money of witnesses also shows no undue accumulation."

"The Naib Ahilkar thinks that it will be very desirable and the work will be managed efficiently if the Nezarut be separated from the Accountant's Department altogether. As a fact, the Accountant, he says, cannot spare time to do the work of the Nezarut. He is obliged to remain satisfied with signing the books only. There are 2 mohurers, 1 Poddar and 2 Buxshis under the Accountant. One of the Mohurers may be styled the *Nasir* of the Court and he may do all the work of the Nezarut with the assistance of the 2 Buxshis, while the Accountant may do the work of the Account Department with the help of one Mohurer and his Poddar. I think the proposal is a good one in as much as the sense of Council with his views in the matter."

I inspected the pound and found that the accommodation for cattle is insufficient. The number in the pound is 53 to-day. One hut is not sufficient. I requested the Naib Ahilkar to build a small hut at some distance from the pound so that when any animal get a contagious disease, it may be removed to this hut and not allowed to mix with other cattle. I selected the sites in company with the Naib and the Sub-Naib Ahilkar.

MEKHLIGUNJ.

SMALL CAUSE COURT DEPARTMENT.

Case No. 11 of 1897.—The peon neglected to serve and return the process on the date fixed for trial. He was fined two annas.

The case was not entered in the Day book and it was not therefore pushed and could not be tried. The fault was that of the Peshkar. The Peshkar should have been warned. I hope the Naib Ahilkar will take serious notice of such mistakes in future. It is strange that the parties did not bring the fact to the notice of the Naib Ahilkar.

EXECUTION DEPARTMENT.

Case No. 10 of 1897.—Decree-holder prayed for payment of money on the 4th January 1898. The mohurrer filed his *kyfeut* on the very day, but the Accountant submitted his *kyfeut* on the 18th January 1898 although he was distinctly ordered to do so in 2 days. It appears that Naib Ahilkar was on tour and the cash book had not been signed. The delay of the Accountant to file the report in time, is thus explained.

CIVIL DEPARTMENT.

Case No. 196 of 1896.—The Amin's conduct is very unsatisfactory. The matter should have been reported to me at once. Whenever the Court Ameen fails to do his work within the time fixed by himself the matter must be reported. Robocaries to the effect will be sent to all Subordinate Courts and the Ameen should be informed of it. To do away with the necessity of postponing cases for Ameen's report for times without number, the present rules were framed. I have no means of knowing when the Ameen does not file his report within the time named by him. Unless the rule is strictly enforced the old state of things will re-appear and cases will have to be postponed for years for Ameen's report.

ACT X DEPARTMENT.

Case No. 335 of 1897.—The Court could not find time to hear pleaders and the case was thrice postponed. The value of the suit is not more than Rs. 50. This is not as it should be. I hope the Naib Ahilkar will try to hear pleaders as soon, after all the evidence is ready, as possible.

EXECUTION DEPARTMENT.

There was no attachment of property before judgment.

In 8 cases the debtors were ousted under the provision of Sub-infeudation Act.

No records have been sent to the Sudder record rooms after the month of March 1895. The records cannot be sent till the original record rooms are not repaired. It is necessary to have racks here like those put up at Mathabhanj and Dinhat. The Naib Ahilkar should come up with a regular proposal.

The Act X mohurrer says that he cannot get twine, thread, pens &c for his work. The Naib Ahilkar, it is stated, wrote often to the Council but with no good result. I hope the Naib Ahilkar should come up officially in the matter.

ACCOUNTANT'S DEPARTMENT.

The Accountant says there is no money for permanent advance here and they have often to spend money from the miscellaneous and other deposits and adjust them when the bills are cashed. I hope the Naib Ahilkar will at once write to the Dewan of the State officially on the subject and obtain Rs. 200 or so as permanent advance.

I am glad to find that no deposit more than 6 months old are in the sub-treasury. The amount of money on account of diet of witnesses has also come down to a small figure. I am glad to hear that pleaders now take away these monies promptly.

I do not clearly understand why so many as 305 processes should be served by the peons, for which no court-fee is realised. As far as the Civil Courts are concerned there is scarcely any process which can be legally ordered to be served without a Court-fee. The Naib Ahilkar will be good enough to submit a full report in the matter showing the different description of processes and the departments from which they were issued in detail.

TUFANGUNJ.

SMALL CAUSE COURT DEPARTMENT.

Case No. 59 of 1897-98.—As a rule cases may be fixed within 3 weeks from the date of their institution so that the defendants may have full 15 days to defend their cases.

CIVIL DEPARTMENT?

Register of cases.—In 14 cases the properties of the debtors were attached before judgment. The provision of law should be as sparingly availed of as possible.

"*Case No. 280 of 1895-96.*—It is a great pity that the witnesses were not examined this day (17th December 1897). They should have been examined by all means. In my last year's inspection diary, page 2, the Naib Ahilkar was specially directed to take down deposition of witnesses in similar cases at his personal inconvenience even. The instructions should have been attended to."

"*Claim Case No. 1 of 1897.*—15 head of cattle and 5 calves were attached on the 24th August 1897. The petitioner in this case lodged a claim to 7 of these. It appears that the sale of all the 20 head of cattle was postponed till the final disposal of the claim. The order was an injurious one and I am very sorry it was passed without any reason or rhyme. The 13 head of cattle to which no claim was preferred should have been sold in due time but the Sub-Naib Ahilkar stopped all work in the execution case. The result is all the cattle have been remaining in the Pound for about 8 months and 4 cattle have died already. Orders should at once be passed for the sale of the 13 head of cattle. There is a standing order to the effect that cases in which cattle are attached in execution of decrees and claims filed must be disposed of in 3 months. In the Sudder, a special report is submitted to me when cattle remain in the pound for more than 3 months. I must introduce this system in the moffussil courts also. The state of things is very unsatisfactory."

ACT X DEPARTMENT.

"*Register of cases.*—It is satisfactory to find that as in last year no property of defendants in any case was attached before judgment."

"*Register of Execution cases.*—Most of the demands were satisfied within 30 days from the date of the decree on account of the stringent provisions of the Sub-infendation Act."

"*Miscellaneous case No. 3 of 1897-98.*—The prayer of the applicant should have been rejected for his latches. Every thing appears to be so lax."

ACCOUNTANT'S DEPARTMENT.

"It appears that several items of money on account of the pay of the peons &c. who have left the place for good, are lying in the "Pass Bill" cash. A date should be fixed and a notice to be struck up in the Court house inviting the parties to come within that time. If they do not come to take the money, it will be sent off to the Treasury. The Naib Ahilkar should remember that he has to append a certificate to each bill distinctly stating that all monies drawn for salaries for the previous month, have been disbursed and receipts taken."

"It appears that money on account of judicial deposits more than six months old, have not been remitted to the Treasury in accordance with a standing order on the subject. I direct the attention of the Naib Ahilkar to this. The accountant says that he will send all such monies before the end of the year. Rs 5-11 on account of pay of amlas cited as witnesses are also remaining in the Sub-Treasury for a very long time. This money must be sent at once."

18. The Civil Court Ameen Munshi Nassaruddin continued to work in the Settlement Department and Babu Mohesh Chandra Atarthee to act in his place. The number of cases

Local enquiries.

made over to him for enquiry by the different civil courts of the State was 74 against 87 cases of the previous year. This being added to 7 cases pending at the close of the previous year, the total number for enquiry was 81 cases.

Of these, 76 cases were enquired into against 84 cases of the previous year shewing a decrease of 8 cases, 5 cases were pending at the end of the year.

19. Out of the total number of original suits disposed of, 2649 or less than one third were for claims not exceeding Rs. 20;

Value of suits disposed of.

3309 or little over one third for claims exceeding Rs. 20 but not exceeding Rs. 50; 2137 or little less than one fourth for claims exceeding Rs. 50 but not exceeding Rs. 100; 1211 or little more than one eighth for claims exceeding Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 500; 48 cases for claims above Rs. 500 but not exceeding Rs. 1,000; 21 cases were above Rs. 1,000.

Disposal of execution cases.

20. The statement given below shews the disposal of execution cases during the last 4 years.

YEAR.	Civil Suits.	Rent Suits.	Small Cause Court Suits upto Rs. 20 & Rs. 50.	TOTAL.
1894-95	1,881	1,787	748	4,381
1895-96	1,724	1,628	816	4,168
1896-97	1,791	1,618	825	4,234
1897-98	2,082	1,859	740	4,681

The total number of execution cases disposed of was 4,681 against 4,234 of the previous year shewing an increase of 447 cases. There were 358 cases pending at the end of the year against 744 of the previous year shewing an increase of 113 cases.

Of the execution cases disposed of decrees were wholly or partially satisfied in more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the number. The ratio of applications struck off for default was 6; of cases in which judgment debtors were arrested 2; of attachment of movable property 4; of attachment of immovable property 2; of sales of movable property 1; of sales of immovable property about 2 and 85 persons were imprisoned in the Civil Jail. There were 12 application for declaration of insolvency of which 8 were allowed and 4 disallowed.

Miscellaneous cases-Judicial.

21. The table given below shows the disposal of Miscellaneous cases of a Judicial nature:—

YEAR.	Civil.	Rent.	Small Cause Court up to Rs. 20 & Rs. 50.	Total.
1897-98	299	172	67	538

There was an increase of 78 cases in the number of disposals as compared with those of the previous year. The number of cases pending at the end of the year was 115 against 93 of the previous year.

Miscellaneous Non-Judicial.

22. The table given below shews the disposal of Miscellaneous cases of a Non-Judicial nature.

YEAR.	Civil.	Rent.	Small Cause Court up to Rs. 20 & Rs. 50.	Total.
1897-98	15	85	...	100

The total number of Miscellaneous cases of a Non-Judicial nature disposed of was 100 against 149 of the previous year shewing a decrease of 49 cases. The number of cases pending at the end of the year was 95 against 92 of the previous year.

23. The statement given below shows the work on the Civil original side of the Civil and Sessions Judge's Court for the last 3 years:—

YEAR.	Original suits.				Execution.				Miscellaneous.				REMARKS.
	Pending from last year.	Instituted and received by transfer.	Disposed of.	Pending.	Pending from last year.	Instituted and received by transfer.	Disposed of.	Pending.	Pending from last year.	Instituted and received by transfer.	Disposed of.	Pending.	
1895-96 ...	8	11	10	9	29	80	68	11	39	56	35	10	
1896-97 ...	9	24	19	14	11	81	70	22	10	63	55	18	
1897-98 ...	14	23	21	15	22	47	51	18	18	78	69	27	

Fifteen original, 18 execution and 27 Miscellaneous cases were pending at the end of the year.

24. The following table shews the number of Regular and Miscellaneous appeals preferred in the Civil and Sessions Judge's Court during the last 3 years:—

1895-96	...	...	214
1896-97	...	...	184
1897-98	...	...	154

The number of appeals filed during the year was 154 against 184 of the previous year shewing a decrease of 30 appeals.

The number of regular appeals preferred was 144. Every 56th original decree (about 2 per cent) and almost every 9th decree in contested original suits were appealed against.

25. The disposals of appeals during the last 3 years is shewn below:—

1895-96	...	...	...	...	...	311
1896-97	...	...	...	...	...	181
1897-98	...	...	...	...	...	166

The number of appeals disposed of was 166 against 181 of the previous year shewing a decrease of 15. There were 38 appeals pending at the end of the year against 50 of the previous year. Three appeals were pending over 6 months and one over one year at the end of the year under report.

26. The result of appeals for the last 3 years is shewn in the table given below:—

YEAR.		Number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate courts.	Number of appeals preferred.	Affirmed.	Reversed.	Modified.
1895-96	...	6,044	214	110	35	31
1896-97	...	6,556	184	88	46	28
1897-98	...	8,416	154	87	29	25

The growing experience of the Subordinate Courts accounts for the decrease in the number of appeals.

27. The following table shows the result of appeals against the decrees of the several subordinate officers.

NAMES OF OFFICERS.	Total number of disposals.	Total number of contested cases disposed of.	Appeals preferred.	Ratio of appeals to decisions.	Ratio of appeals to contested cases disposed of.	Ratio of confirmed to decided.	Ratio of reversed to decided.	Ratio of modified to decided.
				per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Babu Narendra Nath Sen, B.L.	169	48	4	2	8	38	66	...
„ Raj Krishna Das, L.C.E.	538	126	21	4	17	71	19	5
„ Satis Chandra Mustafi.	1,322	146	15	1	10	83	25	42
„ Promatha Nath Chatterjee, M.A. B.L.	7	.....	1	.....	...	100	...	...
„ Hari Nath Bose B.L. ...	370	119	23	6	19	62	12	17
„ Surendra Nath Chuckerbutty, M.A. B.L.	153	17	4	3	24	75	...	...
„ Rajani Kanta Bhowmic, M.A. B.L.	1,402	233	21	1	9	70	20	...
„ Ashutosh Ghose, B.L. ...	628	135	16	3	12	22	17	17
„ Jagad Ballubh Biswas, M.A. B.L.	1,757	194	13	1	7	60	10	20
„ Padma Nath Das, B.L....	1,439	228	20	1	9	35	22	18
„ Harendra Nathain Chowdhury, B.L.	113	40	2	2	5	50	...	...
Babu Bama Charan Neogi B.L.	511	96	14	3	15	53	26	16
„ Gopal Chunder Chatterjee, B.L.	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	100	...	...

One appeal against the decision of Babu Promatha Nath Chatterjee and one against that of Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterjee were heard and confirmed during the year.

Babu Surendra Nath Chuckerbutty stands first, Babu Raj Krishna Das, second, Babu Rajuni Kanta Bhaumick, third, Babu Hari Nath Bose, fourth, Babu Jagadballav Bisawa, fifth, Babu Bama Charan Neogi, sixth, Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhuri, seventh, Babu Padma Nath Das eighth, Babus Narendra Nath Sen and Satis Chandra Mustafi ninth, and Babu Ashutosh Ghose, occupies the last place.

Sessions Cases.

28. The statement given below compares the work of the Sessions Department for the last 3 years :—

YEAR.	Sessions cases.				Criminal Appeals.				Criminal Motions.				Remarks.
	Pending from last year.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.	Pending from last year.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.	Pending from last year.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.	
1895-96 ...	...	16	15	1	...	22	22	...	...	11	11	...	
1896-97 ...	1	12	12	1	...	15	15	...	...	10	10	...	
1897-98 ...	1	14	14	1	...	16	16	...	...	7	6	1	

It will appear from the above that 14 cases were committed for trial, 16 criminal appeals preferred and 7 Criminal Motions filed in the Sessions Court during the year.

There were one Sessions case and one Criminal Motion pending at the end of the year. 124 witnesses were examined in the trial of Sessions cases.

Administrative finance.

29. The receipts of the Civil Department are shewn below under the several heads :—

I. *Stamp duty.*—The following statement shews the stamp duty realised during the last 4 years :—

1894-95 ...	...	...	...	Rs. 73,726
1895-96 ...	...	...	...	" 69,950
1896-97 ...	...	...	...	" 71,152
1897-98 ...	...	...	...	" 82,196

The increase of Rs. 11,044 is due to the increase in the institution of suits.

II. *Ameen's fees.*—The table given below shews the receipts under this head for the last 4 years :—

					Rs.
1894-95 ...	...	...	...	...	883
1895-96 ...	...	...	...	...	789
1896-97 ...	...	...	...	...	768
1897-98 ...	...	...	...	...	629

There was a decrease of Rs. 139 only.

III. *Process fees.*—The amount of fees realised was Rs. 20,903 against Rs. 18,609 of the previous year shewing an increase of Rs. 2,294. This increase is attributable to the increase in the number of institutions.

IV. *Fines and forfeitures.*—Amounted to Rs. 534 against Rs. 43 of the previous year shewing an increase of Rs. 491. This increase is mainly due to the forfeiture of one fourth of the bids of defaulting purchasers of properties at sales in execution of decrees.

V. *Other receipts.*—Including copying and searching fees came up to Rs. 3,996 against Rs. 3,616 of the previous year shewing an increase of Rs. 380. The increase is chiefly due to increase in the number of institution of suits.

The total amount of receipts under several heads shewn above was Rs 1,08,258 against Rs 94,188 of the previous year shewing an increase of Rs 14,070.

30. *Disbursement.* I.—The salary of Judicial officers amounted to Rs 19,661 against Rs 19,247 of the previous year shewing an increase of Rs 414.

II. The establishment charges were Rs 12,497 against Rs 12,364 of the previous year shewing an increase of Rs 133.

III. *Process service.*—The expenditure incurred in the service of processes was Rs 7,679 against Rs 7,001 of the previous year shewing an increase of Rs 678.

IV. *Contingencies.*—The amount expended under this head was Rs 1,690 against Rs 1,708 of the previous year shewing a decrease of Rs 18 only.

V. *Ameen's salary.*—The cost of establishment of Civil Court Ameen amounted Rs 870 against Rs 864 of the previous year shewing an increase of Rs 6.

VI. *Other charges.*—The charges under this head which include refund of sale fees, remuneration to copyists &c., amounted to Rs 3,580 against Rs 3,874 shewing a decrease of Rs. 394.

The total amount of expenditure came up to Rs. 45,997 against Rs. 45,058 of the previous year shewing an increase of Rs. 939.

31. The excess of receipts over expenditure was Rs. 62,261 against Rs. 49,130 of the previous year shewing an increase of Rs. 13,131.

32. *Ministerial officers.*

The Assistant Civil Judge says:—

My Seristadar Babu Kashi Gopal Biswas is a young intelligent officer and discharged the duties of his office with credit to himself and with satisfaction to his superiors. The Peshkar Babu Ganga Prosonna Chuckerbutty was away on leave from the 9th February to the close of the year. He is an intelligent hard working officer and he did his duties very well. During his absence on leave Babu Kushal Chahdra Pal, the senior mohurer got a lift and officiated as Peshkar, all the other mohurers worked hard and well and were found willing and attentive."

The Naib Ahilkar of Dinhatra says :—

"The Sheristadar Babu Hari Charan Banerjee, Peshkar Babu Jogesh Chandra Gangooly worked well. The Accountant Babu Har Chandra Roy proved himself very useful in his Department and gave satisfaction. The Dewany Mohurer Babu Kripa Nath Roy is an able and experienced man but could not fully cope with the heavy work of the department. The Bent Suit Mohurer worked well. The Sub-Naib Ahilkar's Bench Clerk Babu Guru Govindo Neogi worked with zeal and ability."

The Naib Ahilkar of Mathabhanga says :—

"In recording my opinions about the services of my officers, I am glad to be able to say that I have no reason of complaint against them. Babu Har Chandra Guha, Sheristadar, discharges his duties well. Peshkar Promatha Nath Mosumdar is an intelligent young man. The Sub-Naib Ahilkar's Peshkar Kali Charan Banerjee is favourably reported on by the Sub-Naib Ahilkar. Accountant Mohim Chandra Mukerjee is also an intelligent officer. Clerk Bhabendra Narain Basu is a promising young officer of intelligence. Mohurers Harish Chandra Guha and Dwarika Nath Dutt are experienced and hardworking officers."

The Naib Ahilkar of Tufangunj says :—

"My Sheristadar Babu Bhabanghree Kamal Sen, rendered good work. I have been entirely satisfied with his work. He is willing and intelligent and has acquired experience."

"My Bench Clerk Babu Jogendra Nath Banerjee will prove a good officer with additional experience. He is willing and hard working."

"The Sub-Naib Ahilkar's Bench Clerk Babu Umesh Chandra Mojumdar with experience will do. He bears an amiable disposition."

"The Act X Mohurer Babu Kailash Chandra Chakerbutty is an officer of experience. He satisfied me."

"The Dewany Mohurer Babu Umesh Chandra Ghosh has experience. He was on leave for a considerable portion of the year. Babu Gopal Chandra Dey who has been officiating for him has been working well."

The Naib Ahilkar of Mekligunj says :—

"Sheristadar Babu Shyama Prosonno Bhattacharjee, Peshkar Babu Ram Chandra Banerjee, Dewany Mohurer Babu Iswar Chandra Roy and Act X Mohurer Babu Madhu Sudan Chakerbutty discharged their respective duties satisfactorily."

33. During the year under report records of 19,442 cases were received in the Sudder Record-room attached to the Civil and Rent Courts as shewn below :—

Courts.	Civil Suits.	Rent Suits.	Total.
Civil Judge ...	223	79	302
Assistant Civil Judge, Cooch Behar ...	12,546	3,974	16,520
Naib Ahlikar, Dinhat ...	884	1,519	2,403
Naib Ahlikar, Tufanganj ...	217	.....	217
Total ...	13,870	5,572	19,442

34. The table given below shews the records of cases destroyed during the year :—

Courts.	Description of records destroyed.
Civil Judge, Cooch Behar ...	B File of original Civil and Rent suits, Civil and Rent appeals, Civil and Rent Execution and Miscellaneous cases from January to December 1893.
Assistant Civil Judge ...	B File of original Civil cases from January 1889 to July 1890.

35. The terrible earth-quake of the 12th June 1897, more or less seriously damaged all the pucca buildings in the State. The Sudder Record-rooms were shattered and many records injured. The office of the Civil and Sessions Judge as well as the records had to be removed to the Vernacular School premises. The records are still there as the damages to the Record rooms have not yet been repaired.

36. The appointment of an additional clerk on a monthly salary Rs. 20 rising to Rs. 25 in two years was sanctioned for the Toofanganj Sub-divisional office during the year under report.

37. During the year under review the work of the Nezarat was carried on by Naib Nazirs Babu Bhuban Mohan Mojumdar and Babu Ram Chandra Ghose under the supervision of Nazir Babu Guru Govindo Guha. A proposal for the appointment of a whole time Nazir was made during the year and sanctioned by Your Highness in Council with effect from the beginning of current official year.

38. The total amount of fees realised in the Copying Department during the year was Rs. 2,753 against Rs. 2,724 of the previous year shewing a decrease of Rs. 29. Out of the total receipts, Rs. 782 were credited to the State and the balance was distributed among copyists and comparing clerks. The statement given below shews the number of copyists and comparing clerks employed in each court with their average monthly income :—

	No. of comparing Clerks	No. of Copyists	Comparing fees.	Copying fees earned by each copyist per month.	Remarks.
Sudder ...	1	3	16 15 7	14 4 4	
Dinhat ...	1	3	10 4 11	10 28 7	
Mathabherga ...	1	3	12 11 2	14 0 5	
Mohligun ...	1	3	6 7 8	7 4 8	
Toofanganj ...	1	3	3 11 19	3 13 1	

39. Twenty eight Higher grade and twenty seven Lower grade Pleaders, thirty six Mukhtears and Revenue Agents, and twenty-two Revenue Agents, practised in the Civil Courts of the State during the year.

Pleadership Examination.

40. During the year under report no Examination was held for the enrolment of Pleaders, Mukhtears &c.

41. As Babu Jadub Chandra Chuckerbutty, Civil and Sessions Judge, is away on privilege leave and will not return to duty till the end of the current month, this report is submitted by me.

I have the honor to be,

Your Highness' most obedient servant,

PRIYA NATH DUTTA,

Offg. Civil and Sessions Judge, Cooch Behar.

No. 90.

FROM

BABU PRIYA NATH DUTT, M.A.B.L.,

Offg. Registrar of Deeds, Cooch Behar.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL,

COOCH BEHAR.

Dated, Cooch Behar, the 4th July 1898.

YOUR HIGHNESS,

I have the honor to submit the Annual Report of the Registration Department of the State for 1897-98. The Annual Returns, I to X are here-to appended.

2. The office of Registrar of Deeds was held by Babu Jadub Chandra Chuckerbutty throughout the year except for 45 days from the 21st of April to the 4th of June 1897 when he was away on privilege leave and Babu Raj Krishna Das, Officiating Assistant Civil Judge, remained in charge. Babu Man Mohan Buxi was in charge of the Sudder Sub-Registry Office during the year except for 2 months and 5 days from the 11th of December 1897 to the 15th of February 1898, when he was on leave and Babu Joy Gobinda Guha, B.A., officiated for him. The charge of the Dinhata Sub-Registry office rested with Babu Hari Nath Basu, B.L., throughout the year. Babu Ashutosh Ghosh, B.L., held charge of the Mathabhanga Sub-Registry office throughout the year except from the 31st of May to the 29th of June 1897, when Babu Jagadbullav Biswas, M.A. B.L., Sub-Naib Ahilkar, remained in charge. At Mekligunj the charge rested with Babu Padma Nath Das, B.L. Babu Harendra Narain Chowdhuri, B.L., remained in charge of the Toofangunj Sub-Registry office from the beginning of the year to the 6th of February 1898 and Babu Bama Charan Neogi, B.L., Sub-Naib Ahilkar, from the 7th of February to the close of the year. All these officers were remunerated by fees at 25 per cent on total collections.

3. The total receipts under fees, fines and other heads during the year amounted to Rs. 7,385-5 against Rs. 8,197-6 of the previous year shewing a decrease of Rs. 812-1. The decrease was due to the decrease in the number of deeds registered, which again was due to good harvests.

4. The total disbursements during the year amounted to Rs. 4,979-9-4 against Rs. 4,897-12-1 shewing an increase of Rs. 81-13-3. This increase was attributable to the appointment of an Index clerk and a paid apprentice for the Registrar's and the Sudder Sub-Registrar's offices respectively.

5. The net gain to the State was Rs. 2,405-11-8 against Rs. 3,299-9-11 of the previous year showing a decrease of Rs. 893-14-3.

6. Table No. 1 hereto annexed compares the number of deeds both compulsory and optional registered during the past and the preceding years. The number of deeds, the registration of which was compulsory, came down from 4,785 to 4,600 and that of which the registration was optional from 3,360 to 3,119 shewing a decrease of 426 deeds in all.

7. The variations as regards the different kinds of documents registered during the year 1896-97 and 1897-98 are shewn in Table II hereto appended. There was a decrease of 330 and 257 deeds under the heads "Leases" and "Obli-

gations for payment of money" respectively and an increase of 13,221 and 9 deeds under the heads "mortgage", "sales" and "acknowledgments of payment of consideration on account of immovable property" respectively.

8. The decrease under Gifts, Wills and Miscellaneous was small and calls for no explanation.

9. The number of deeds registered in the different offices as shewn in Table III are given below:—

Registrar's and Sudder offices	...	...	...	...	2,274
Dinhata office	...	...	...	...	1,651
Mathabhanga office...	...	...	...	...	1,985
Mekhlignuj ditto	...	...	...	...	1,246
Toofangunj ditto	...	...	...	...	563
Total					8,145

10. The ratio of the different classes of documents is shewn below:—

Leases	...	...	...	...	4
Mortgages	...	...	...	...	08
Sales	...	...	...	...	3
Gifts	...	...	...	...	007
Acknowledgments for payment of money on consideration of immovable property	...	...	...	...	1
Obligations for payment of money	...	...	...	...	07
Wills	...	...	...	...	001
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	07

11. During the year under report Babu Jadub Chandra Chuckerbutty registered 50 documents against 64 of the previous year, yielding fees of Rs. 97-4 against Rs. 207 of the year preceding.

12. The following table shews the number of deeds copied by each office during the year as also the number which remained to be copied at the end of the year:—

Offices.	Deeds copied.	Remained to be copied on the 31st March 1898.
Registrar's and Sudder Offices	...	...
Dinhata ditto	2,274	.....
Mathabhanga ditto	1,646	5
Mekhlignuj ditto	1,985	.....
Toofangunj ditto	1,246	.....
	563	.....

13. The five deeds which remained to be copied in the Dinhata office were in reality pending registration at the end of the year. So, properly speaking, all the documents registered were copied out during the year. This is satisfactory.

14. There were 22 appeals including the 6 which remained pending at the close of the previous year against the orders of the Sub-Registrars. In 11 cases registration was ordered and in 5 the orders of the Sub-Registrars confirmed. Six cases remained pending at the close of the year.

15. All the Sub-Registry offices were inspected by Babu Jadub Chandra Chuckerbutty during the year under report.

16. As Babu Jadub Chandra Chuckerbutty is away on leave and will not return till the end of the current month, this report is submitted by me.

I have the honour to be,

Your Highness' most obedient servant,

PRIYA NATH DUTT,

Offg. Registrar of Deeds, Cooch Behar.

FROM

BABU AMBITA LAL SEN,

Accountant-General of the Cooch Behar State.

To

THE VICE-PRESIDENT, STATE COUNCIL,

COOCH BEHAR.

Dated, Cooch Behar, the 26th July 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the Financial Report for the year 1897-98.

2. In the budget estimates for 1897-98 it was estimated that the revenue of the year would be Rs. 20,80,092 and the expenditure Rs. 21,64,490, inclusive of the payment on account of the extension of the Cooch Behar Railway to the town and the Government loan of 3½ lakhs of rupees, and that there would therefore be a deficit of Rs. 84,398. According to the revised estimates it was expected that the revenue would be Rs. 21,82,515, which was better than the original estimates by Rs. 1,02,423, and the expenditure Rs. 24,71,432, which was greater than the original estimate by Rs. 3,06,942, and that there would also be a deficit of Rs. 2,88,917.

3. The actual accounts shew that the revenue was Rs. 22,39,668, being better than the budget estimates by Rs. 1,59,576, and than the revised estimates by Rs. 57,153; that the expenditure was Rs. 24,12,101 being greater than the budget estimates by Rs. 2,47,611 but less than the revised estimates by Rs. 59,331. Thus the deficit of Rs. 84,398 in the budget estimate was increased to Rs. 1,72,433 in the actuals. If the adjustment of the balance of the Selim Tea Company's share account had not been made, the actual deficit would have been Rs. 72,433 only.

REVENUE.

4. The revenue collections* under the following heads of the budget are much better than those shewn in the revised estimates, in spite of earth-quake and floods which happened during the year under report. This satisfactory result is attributable to improvement in the prospects of crops and to better collections:—

			Revised. Rs.	Actual. Rs.
(a)	Land Revenue	...	11,98,800	12,18,495
(b)	Stamps	...	1,61,780	1,80,829
(c)	Excise	...	76,000	76,136
(d)	Civil Court	...	200	497
(e)	Education	...	5,600	6,326
(f)	Public Works	...	23,000	28,788
(g)	Sundries	...	2,374	3,226
(h)	Darjeeling	...	49,026	50,875
(i)	Chaklajet	...	3,88,970	4,23,543
(j)	Cooch Behar State Railway	...	60,000	62,656

The following items show decreases in revenue, the necessary explanations of which are given against each:—

	Revised.	Actual
(a) Household	48,186	28,742

The decrease is due to non-disposal of 15 elephants and other causes.

(b) Interest on loan	2,780	1,668
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The decrease is due to non-recovery of interest from parties.

(c) Sundries	7,500	5,903
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The decrease is due to over-estimate under the head "Lapsed deposit".

(d) Registration	9,000	7,882
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There was a large decrease in the number of deed registered, and consequently in the amount of fees realized, owing to famine and earth-quake: hence the decrease.

(e) Criminal Justice	4,800	4,552
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The decrease is due to over-estimate as very approximate estimate is not possible, owing to the fluctuating character of the receipts under the several heads of the criminal budget.

(f) Jail	5,156	3,892
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The decrease is due to falling off in the number of working prisoners and to stoppage of extra-mural labor during the cholera epidemic.

(g) Debutter	1,09,000	1,07,909
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The cause of the decrease is explained by the Dewan in the following lines:—

"The actual collection under Debutter amounted Rs. 1,11,035 which exceeded the current demand of Rs. 1,09,232 by Rs. 1,803 and the amount provided in the revised budget by Rs. 2,085. There were monies in the hands of the collecting officers at the close of the year and the deficit of Rs. 1,091 was entirely due to short remittances from Sub-divisions".

(h) Simla Estate	7,949	7,651
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The decrease is due to non-recovery of the amount for taxes from the tenants.

(i) Panga Estate	27,394	22,603
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The decrease is due to short collection.

EXPENDITURE.

5. The following statement will show the changes on the original figures in the budget, and as such changes have had the sanction of the authorities no explanations in detail seem necessary. But certain facts may be generally recorded here to show how the actuals have so greatly exceeded the original estimates. It may be briefly stated here that during the year among other additional expenditure Rs. 1,11,000 were adjusted to "profit and loss account" being the irrecoverable balance of Selim Tea Company's share and the remission of loan granted to certain individuals; and Rs. 1,77,449 were paid for earth-quake repairs and construction.

I Household.—

	Original. Rs.	Revised. Rs.	Actual. Rs.
(a.) His Highness' personal expenses ...	3,00,000	3,00,000	3,00,000
(b.) Payment of bills	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,49,374
(c.) Rajbari garden	6,000	6,000	6,012
Total of His Highness' personal expenditure ...	4,56,000	4,56,000	4,55,386
(d.) Maintenance of Rajguns &c. and education of Maharajkumar	82,984	88,453	87,669
(e.) Philkhana and Stable	48,207	47,894	48,082
(f.) Band	22,240	22,240	22,215
(g.) Miscellaneous	45,788	44,779	43,565
(h.) Fund for His Highness' children	50,000	50,000	50,000

II. Administration.—

	Original Rs.	Revised Rs.	Actual Rs.
1. Control	70,050	1,90,201	1,87,739
2. General	8,13,970	3,30,820	3,16,590
Public Works Department ...	1,25,181	2,29,703	2,17,787
3. Revenue	2,49,731	2,37,159	2,29,086
4. Law and Justice	51,693	52,256	49,659
III. Debutter	45,358	45,801	45,518

IV. HIS HIGHNESS' ESTATES.

(a) Simla Estates	4,447	4,447	3,723
(b) Darjeeling „	35,116	1,02,886	96,631
(c) Chaklajat „	2,50,744	2,51,753	2,43,403
(d) Panga „	18,861	18,861	17,970
V. Cooch Behar State Railway ...	39,766	47,000	47,499

Total ... 19,10,066 22,20,753 21,61,422

6. The following explanations are given regarding the excess expenditure over the revised figures:—

	Revised Rs.	Actual Rs.
(a) Philkhana and Stable	47,394	48,082
The increase is due to underestimate under “Khedda.”		
(b.) Cooch Behar State Railway ...	47,000	47,499

The increase is due to under estimate.

7. *Earth-quake Expenditure.*—The following payments were made during the year:—

Palace	Rs. 46,457
Woodlands	1,729
Other State buildings	48,948
Darjeeling house	14,308
Construction of Rockville and Chevrement and repairs to Hermitage at Darjeeling ...	44,610
Cooch Behar State Railway	19,304
Chaklajat Estate	2,093
	<hr/> 1,77,449

8. *Cooch Behar State Railway.*—This line has suffered greatly from earth-quake and floods. The original estimate was for Rs 70,000 which was reduced to Rs 60,000 in the revised estimate on account of the suspension of traffic in consequence of the earth-quake and flood.

The net earnings of this Railway were Rs 34,461 against Rs 39,070 in 1896-97 shewing a decrease of Rs 4,609. Rs 19,304 which were not included in the ordinary expenditure were paid by the State on account of earth-quake and flood repairs.

9. *Darjeeling Estates.*—This estate has also suffered great loss during the year from the earth-quake of the 12th June. The following houses were destroyed and though the collections shew better result than the amount provided in the revised budget, yet the actual loss to the estate on account of rent may be put down to over Rs 8,000.

Rockville
Chevrement
Castleton
Sunny site
Snowy view

The receipts of this estate were Rs 50,875 against Rs 61,928 in 1896-97. The arrear of rent Rs 8,313 on the 31st March 1898, was higher than that on

the same date in 1896-97. The cash balance at the end of the year was Rs. 6,236-3-8.

10. *Chaklajat Estate*.—The collections of this estate are far better than those in 1896-97 as the following figures will shew:—

1896-97	...	...	Rs. 3,60,426
1897-98	...	...	„ 4,23,548

They are better than the revised estimate by Rs. 34,573 which is satisfactory.

The expenditure is less than the revised estimate by Rs. 8,350. The cash balance on the 31st March 1898 was Rs. 1,09,108-0-9 against Rs. 97,633-5-10 in 1896-97.

11. *Panga Estate*.—Against an estimate of Rs. 27,394, Rs. 22,663 have been the collections of the year shewing a deficit of Rs. 4,791. The cause of this short collection has been explained by the Manager in the following lines:—

“The short collection was due to the bad after-effects of the failure of the crops in 1896-97. The condition of the people continued to be bad up to August 1897.”

12. *Cooch Behar Railway Capital Outlay Account*.—Out of Rs. 10,00,679 placed at the disposal of the Manager, Eastern Bengal State Railway, Rs. 9,89,086-9-4 have been accounted for by the Examiner of Accounts, Eastern Bengal State Railway, in the following manner:—

Open line, final heads	...	Rs. 7,84,532 15 9
Extension to Cooch Behar town	...	„ 1,82,299 2 7
Stores in stock &c.	...	„ 22,254 7 0
Total	...	Rs. 9,89,086 9 4

13. *Government Loan for the construction of the Cooch Behar State Railway*.—For the last two years no instalments have been paid towards the reduction of the loan of 8 lakhs of rupees. During the year Government has further granted a loan of 2 lakhs of rupees for the extension of the Cooch Behar line to Alipore which has been placed at the disposal of the Manager, Eastern Bengal State Railway. The balance of the Government loan on the 31st March 1898 was Rs. 6,54,931-13-3 exclusive of interest for 1897-98.

14. *Government Loan of 3½ lakhs*.—This has been fully repaid during the year. Rs. 23,954-12-7 on account of interest has been charged to service head instead of to debt head of the budget.

15. *Colinton House at Darjeeling*.—Out of Rs. 1,50,000 at which the house had been purchased Rs. 33,300 towards the principal and Rs. 11,053-2-0 the interest, have been paid up to the end of the year under report leaving a balance of Rs. 1,16,700 due by the State.

16. *Fund for His Highness' Children*.—The sum of Rs. 1,50,000 has already been invested in Government Promissory notes out of the money accumulated to this Fund.

17. *Darjeeling Fire Insurance Fund*.—Rs. 2,900 have been invested in Government Promissory notes and Rs. 25-11-6 remain as balance of this fund on the 31st March 1898.

18. *Cash Balance*.—When the revised estimates were framed it was anticipated that the year would close with a Cash Balance of Rs. 9,06,405, that is Rs. 98,734 better than the amount originally estimated. In the actuals however it amounted to Rs. 10,54,145 which was better than the revised estimates by Rs. 1,47,740. It may be remarked that this balance does not exclusively belong to the State as besides the Government money to the extent of Rs. 1,38,943 it includes the several kinds of deposits held by the State. However the net cash balance of the State may be compared with the estimate as below:—

	Estimate.	Actual.
Cooch Behar State	... 3,93,609	5,14,714
Chaklajat	... 1,03,383	1,09,108

The very great difference between the estimated figures and the actuals lies in the fact that the actual collections were better than the amount estimated for, and that the expenditure was less than the amount sanctioned and provided in the Budget. The increase in the Cash Balance is also due to recovery of advances and to other miscellaneous receipts.

19. *Remarks upon the work of the Department.*—All the Assistants have worked to my entire satisfaction especially Babu Shyam Sundar Chuckerbutty, an intelligent, painstaking and diligent Second Assistant.

20. *Returns.*—The Statement No. I shows the revenue and expenditure, No. II the receipts and disbursements, No. III the actual Ledger balances on the 31st March 1898 and No. IV the Cooch Behar State Railway Loan account; all these are appended hereto for reference.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

AMRITA LAL SEN,

Accountant-General, Cooch Behar State.

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Statement A.

RETURN OF COGNIZABLE OFFENSES FOR THE YEAR 1897-98.

PART I.—Return of cases instituted by complaint to a Magistrate or by Magistrate SUOMOTU in the year 1897-98.

Serial Number.	LAW UNDER WHICH FURNISHED.	DESCRIPTION OF CRIME.	Number remaining for disposal from previous year.										No. of COGNIZABLE OFFENSES COMMITTED THAT WERE TRIED.										REMARKS.																																																																																																																																																													
			Number of complaints and cases instituted before a Magistrate.	Number of complaints dismissed after examining the complainant (Section 302, Criminal Procedure Code).	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.	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Statement A.

RETURN OF COGNIZABLE CRIME FOR THE YEAR 1897-98.

PART I.—Return of cases instituted by complaint to a Magistrate or by Magistrate SOUMOTU in the year 1897-98.

Serial Number.	LAW UNDER WHICH PUNISH-ABLE.	DESCRIPTION OF CRIME.	Number remaining for disposal from previous year.																				Number of complaints and cases instituted during the year by a Magistrate.		Number of complaints dismissed after examining the complaint (Section 394, Criminal Procedure Code).		Number of cases referred for investigation to the Police.		Number otherwise investigated before issue of Proclamation.		Number declared by a Court after trial to have occurred or to be probable that a cognizable offence only was committed.		Number in which the Court held that a non-cognizable offence only was committed.		Number in discharge or acquittal.		Number in conviction.		Percentage of convictions in each of columns 15 and 16.		Number of cases referred for investigation or trial at other than the Court of Session.		Complaints by Private Parties.		Number of cases referred for investigation or trial at other than the Court of Session.		Remarks.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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PART III.—Return of cases reported at a Police

[illegible]

REPORT OF COMMISSAR CRIME FOR THE YEAR 1907-08.

PART IV.—Return of persons concerned in cases reported at a Police Station or in cases taken up by the Police.

[illegible]

PART I.—Return of Non-convertible cases.

[illegible]

PART II.—Return of Persons concerned in Non-cognisable cases.

[illegible]

A.—Annual statement of prisoners of all classes in the Cooch Behar Jail for the year 1897-98.

[illegible]

Annual Statement of prisoners of all classes in the Sub-divisional Lock-ups for the year 1897-98.

[illegible]

Prima Nath Dutt, Officer in charge of the Jail.

(1) Sale proceeds of manufactured articles of Jall	Rs.	A.	P.
(2) Convert labor	2,600	5	6
(3) Miscellaneous	1,352	12	0
	..	25	16
	..	7	
	2,602	0	1

PRIYA NATH DUTT,
Officer in charge of the Jail.

C.—Statement showing the value of labour of prisoners employed in the Cooch Behar Jail during the year 1897-98.

Name of ground under cultivation.	Weight of vegetables produced.	Mdn. Mdn. Ch. Mdn. Mdn. Ch.	Quantity.	Value.	ON JAIL GARDEN.										ON MANUFACTURE		TOTAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
					A. Value of vegetables supplied to prisoners for which payment was not made.	B. Value of vegetables sold to outsiders.	C. Total of columns B. and C.	D. Defect cost of tools, seeds, &c.	E. D minus B pro- fit.	F. M minus D loss.	G. Total estimated earning for the year.	H. Average estimated earning per head.	Average number employed.	Estimated profits of the year.	Average profits per head of those so employed.	Total daily earnings for year of prisoners employed.	Total estimated earnings for year of prisoners employed.	Average estimated earnings per head of prisoners employed.	Total estimated earnings for the year.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. 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A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.

PRINCE NATH DUTT, Officer in charge of the Jail.

D.—Statement shewing the cost of the Cooch Behar Jail during the year 1897-98.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
EXPENDITURE DURING THE WHOLE YEAR							AVERAGE GROSS COST OF EACH PRISONER OF ACCOUNT OF				
Jail guard or regular Police.	Establishment.	Feeding.	Clothing, Jail building, contingencies &c.	Total.	Deduct profits of manufacture, &c., credited side column 12, Statement C.	Net cost.	Jail guard.	Establishment.	Diet.	Clothing, Jail building, contingencies &c.	Total gross cost per prisoner.
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
2,864 0 0	4,406 5 3	5,213 11 3	2,867 11 6	14,803 13 0	4,200 0 0	10,653 12 0	26 3 7	48 14 3	57 13 6	31 13 8	164 13 3

PRITA NATH DUTTA,
Officer incharge of the Jail.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

COOCH BEHAR STATE.

Abstract of Annual Expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year 1897-98.

HEAD OF SERVICE.	EXPENDITURE FOR 1896-97.		EXPENDITURE FOR 1897-98.	
	AMOUNT.	TOTAL.	Amount.	TOTAL.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
ORIGINAL WORKS.*				
Civil Buildings ...	31,208 11 11		13,350 4 2	
Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	1,044 8 6		1,097 7 0	
Forests ...	1,985 6 0		5,800 11 4	
Total Original works...		34,238 10 5		20,248 6 6
REPAIRS.				
Civil Buildings ...	28,949 0 10		1,17,868 6 0	
Military ...	273 10 6		166 0 9	
Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	26 12 6		84 14 6	
Total repairs ...		29,249 7 10		1,17,614 5 8
Tools and Plant	1,708 8 9	1,708 8 9	3,377 8 0	3,377 8 0
Public Works Establishment.	19,884 4 6		20,283 15 0	
Dak Bungalow Establishment.	1,353 3 3		1,652 11 0	
Conservancy Establishment.	522 15 3		533 1 9	
Forest Do. ...	240 0 0		234 0 0	
Artizans' School Do...	983 6 0		942 0 0	
Lansdowne Hall do, ...	959 15 3		1,098 5 9	
Total establishment...		23,893 12 3		24,744 1 6
Maintenance of State carts.	6,324 6 3	6,324 6 3	6,613 3 9	6,613 3 9
Profit and loss ...			223 4 9	223 4 9
GRAND TOTAL ...	.....	95,414 8 6	.....	1,72,820 18 9

KEDAR NATH MARUMDAR,
Superintendent of Works, P. W. Dept.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

COOCH BEHAR STATE.

Annual Statement of Expenditure of the P. W. Dept. for the year 1897-98.

Item No.	HEADS OF SERVICE.	Expenditure for 1896-97.	Expenditure for 1897-98.					
			Amount.		Work. Petty		Total.	
	Original Works.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
	<i>Civil Buildings.</i>							
1	Addition to guest-house for the Principal ...	515 8 0						
2	Addition to Fulbari Dispensary ...	.....	489 11 9	.....		489 11 9		
3	Civil Surgeon's Bungalow ...	2,998 13 9						
4	Constructing a well in the Military Line and raising the plinth of the Barrack.	774 15 0	85 9 0	.....		85 9 0		
5	House for Quarter guards ...	.....	78 5 3	.....		78 5 3		
6	Howdah Godown ...	958 5 2						
7	Pucca house for the Civil Judge ...	10,562 2 9	3,291 5 3	.....		3,291 5 3		
8	Pucca Cutchery at Dinbata ...	6,492 14 3						
9	Lightning Conductor ...	1,545 8 0						
10	Temple at Meckligunj ...	800 0 0						
11	Toofangunj Cutchery ...	3,188 4 9						
12	Wells at Sub-divisional Lock-ups ...	694 7 0						
13	Thatched house for Rajmata ...	581 4 6						
14	Excavating a Tank on the East of Woodlands ...	762 0 9						
15	Rest house at Fulbari ...	516 2 9						
16	Post office at Fulbari ...	.....	349 12 9	.....		349 12 9		
17	Rest house at Haldibari ...	.....	172 10 3	.....		172 10 3		
18	Wooden partition in Meckligunj kutchery ...	.....	57 13 9	.....		57 13 9		
19	Excavating a well in the Compound of Rajmata...	687 0 3	88 4 0	.....		88 4 0		
20	Constructing a Bungalow for the Superintendent of State	.....	2,947 12 8	.....		2,947 12 8		
21	Constructing kutcha Stable in the Palace Compound	.....	2,417 3 0	.....		2,417 3 0		
22	Addition to tin shed for His Highness' occupation	.....	2,026 14 6	.....		2,026 14 6		
23	Providing Electric light in the Palace	.....	1,398 4 9	.....		1,398 4 9		
24	Postmortem house at Haldibari ...	.....	41 1 8	.....		41 1 3		
25	Wooden railing in Dewany and Foudary office...	.....	.....	.....		.....
26	Potty works done in Palace Stable ...	.....	.....	18 12 6		18 12 6		
27	Unforeseen ...	281 5 0	.....	27 18 6		27 18 6		
	Total original works C. B. ...	81,208 11 11	13,308 10 2	41 10 0		13,350 4 2		
	<i>Miscellaneous Public Improvements.</i>							
28	Nilkuty Garden ...	1,040 8 8	1,097 7 0	.....		1,097 7 0		
29	Nilkuty play ground "Gymkhana ...	4 5 8		.....			
	Total Misc. P. Improvement ...	1,044 8 6	1,097 7 0	.....		1,097 7 0		
	<i>Forest.</i>							
30	Forest in General ...	1,180 9 3	1,622 13 7	.....		1,622 13 7		
31	Planting and protecting trees ...	854 12 9	915 6 9	.....		915 6 9		
32	Manufacture of sleepers ...	.....	3,262 7 0	.....		3,262 7 0		
	Total Forest ...	1,985 6 0	5,800 11 4	.....		5,800 11 4		
	Carried over Total Original works ...	34,238 10 5	20,206 12 6	41 10 0		20,248 6 6		

E.—Statement showing the Jail offences and the nature of punishments inflicted during the year 1897-98.

	1	2
Jail offences.	Description of punishments.	No. of convicts.
Having forbidden articles in possession, stealing and other offences against prison discipline.	Corporal punishments ...	1
	Loss of marks ...	14
	Degraded from warder's post...	1
	Warning ..	1
	Put in iron ...	9
	Solitary cell ...	...
		26

PRIYA NATH DUTT,
Officer incharge of the Jail.

F.—Statement showing the General Receipts and Disbursements of the Sub-divisional Lock-ups during the year 1897-98.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No. of lock-ups	Daily average of the total aggregate No. of prisoners	DISBURSEMENTS				RECEIPTS			Net cost.	Average gross cost per prisoner on account of Jail guard.	Average gross cost per prisoner for establishment.	Average gross cost per prisoner for diet and contingencies &c.	Net cost for each prisoner during the year.
		On account of Jail guard.	On account of establishment.	On account of diet and contingencies &c.	Total expenditure.	From manufacture.	On account of wages of non-manufacturing prisoners.	Total receipts.					
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
4	2179	.....	335 0 0	1,254 12 6	1,590 13 6	.....	245 14 7	245 14 7	1,344 13 11	.....	15 6 8	57 9 4	61 10 10.

PRIYA NAJIB DUTT,

Officer in charge of the Jail.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE OF THE P. W. DEPT. FOR THE YEAR 1897-98.

Sl. No.	HEAD OF SERVICE	Expenditure for 1896-97.		Expenditure for 1897-98.							
				Annual repairs.		Petty repairs.		Earth-quake repairs.		Total.	
		Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.
	Brought forward Original works ...	34,338	10 5	20,206	12 6	41	10 0			20,248	6 6
	Repairs.										
	<i>Civil Buildings.</i>										
33	Ananda Moyee's Dharmasala with out-houses ...	86	4 6	.....		161	4 6	.....		161	4 6
34	Artisans' school with out-houses ...	281	10 8	.....		149	14 8	.....		133	14 8
35	Bandamen's Bungalow with out-houses ...	374	7 9	.....		311	6 0	.....		311	6 0
36	Brahmo Somaj Building ...	257	0 8	.....		54	15 8	1,149	9 2	1,204	1 8
37	Boarding Institution with out houses ...	227	1 9	.....		449	6 0	.....		449	6 0
38	Church ...	60	8 9	.....		19	9 9	.....		19	9 9
39	Cemetery ...	16	7 8	.....				.....
40	Corrugated iron sheds for Bazar ...	278	6 6	.....		260	10 9	.....		260	10 9
41	College Buildings with out-houses ...	324	5 0	.....		95	9 9	1,231	3 4	1,326	13 1
42	Council and Civil Judge's office ...	815	10 0	.....		175	12 0	6,267	15 7	6,443	11 7
43	Civil Judges Pucca house ...	.....		.....		.....		1,186	15 10	1,186	15 10
44	Civil Surgeons Dargah in Palace ...	.....		.....		66	10 0	256	10 6	323	4 6
45	Civil Surgeon's house at Nilkuty (Circuit house) ...	430	12 9	440	10 5	125	0 0	.....		565	10 5
46	Dak Bungalow with out-houses (Sudder) ...	177	1 6	.....		186	12 3	.....		186	12 3
47	Dak Bangalows with out-houses in Mofussil ...	861	6 9	370	7 0	.....		.....		370	7 0
48	Dewan's Lodging with out-houses ...	430	13 1	.....		607	0 0	.....		607	0 0
49	Dewan's office with Treasury and other out-houses ...	281	1 3	.....		87	12 0	3,917	8 6	4,005	4 6
50	Dewan and Foudary Court ...	871	3 6	.....		318	2 0	.....		318	2 0
51	Dispensary with out-houses ...	990	1 3	61	5 6	314	8 6	2,856	2 1	3,232	0 1
52	Dispensaries in Mofussil ...	366	8 9	250	9 9	.....		.....		250	9 9
53	Elephant sheds paddy golah and other out houses ...	1,189	14 9	.....		342	14 8	711	6 0	1,054	4 8
54	Eurasian Girls school ...	200	4 6	.....		.....		.....		.....
55	Furniture Godown ...	16	11 6	.....		.....		.....		.....
56	Gymkhana house ...	198	7 6	.....		41	14 0	731	9 9	773	7 9
57	Improvement of Palace Ground ...	1,537	13 9	1,281	11 0	.....		.....		1,281	11 0
58	Jail wall with Jailor's office and Guard house ...	184	2 0	.....		256	12 0	.....		256	12 0
59	Jails in four Sub-divisions ...	368	2 0	337	14 0	14	14 3	.....		352	12 3
60	Cutcheries in four Sub-divisions ...	185	3 8	.....		107	9 8	4,709	9 6	4,817	2 9
61	Lansdowne Hall ...	260	9 3	624	7 9	12	2 0	.....		636	9 9
62	Library building ...	24	12 9	.....		.....		.....		.....
63	Model school buildings in Mofussil ...	349	0 0	665	13 0	.....		.....		665	13 0
64	Three Native Guest-houses ...	138	5 9	.....		386	2 0	.....		386	2 0
65	Out-houses of the Palace ... { "Pucca"	1,549	8 3	269	15 6	6	6 6	3,487	1 1	3,763	5 1
66	..... { "Kutchra"	558	10 9	647	0 3	.....		.....		647	0 3
67	Palace with out-houses ...	3,550	1 3	1,128	10 0	145	2 3	41,196	6 0	42,470	2 3
68	Post office and Post Master's Lodging ...	118	0 3	.....		21	8 0	340	8 3	362	0 3
69	Post Offices in Mofussil ...	881	0 0	329	11 3	.....		.....		329	11 3
70	Public Works office, Godown &c. ...	499	8 0	269	1 9	136	10 6	.....		405	12 3
71	Quarters for the Accountant-General ...	94	1 9	.....		171	11 3	.....		171	11 3
72	Quarters for the Physician to their Highness' ...	52	2 6	.....		163	8 9	.....		163	8 9
73	Quarters for the Minister of N. D. Church ...	67	4 0	.....		37	15 6	.....		37	15 6
74	Quarter for the Assistant Surgeon ...	175	11 0	.....		126	8 0	.....		126	8 0
75	Ditto for Sub-Divisional Officers ...	568	12 3	1,648	13 6	.....		.....		1,648	13 6
76	Ditto for Personal Assistant to His Highness ...	133	3 0	.....		5	4 0	.....		5	4 0
77	Rajmata's Pucca house ...	265	14 9	24	7 6	.....		2,084	5 6	2,108	18 0
78	Record office with East wing of the Central building ...	606	0 0	.....		247	13 0	2,576	2 3	2,823	13 3
79	Repairs to Rajmunder ...	1,234	8 0	1,437	12 9	2	2 6	.....		1,439	15 3
80	School Buildings, (Jenkins', Vernacular School & Sunity College) ...	1,042	6 3	.....		.....		.....		.....
81	Superintendent of State's office ...	357	3 9	.....		26	4 6	3,313	10 1	3,339	14 7
82	Stables and Coach house ...	466	8 9	35	11 8	61	14 0	2,223	14 9	2,371	8 0
83	State Palhi houses ...	.....		.....		.....		.....		.....
84	State Stables at Nilkooty with out-houses ...	121	5 6	.....		49	7 0	.....		49	7 0
85	Sudder Police Station ...	58	10 9	.....		158	8 4	.....		158	8 4
86	Superintendent of State's house with out houses ...	881	7 3	228	9 3	121	3 6	1,266	14 8	1,616	11 5
	Carried over Repairs ...	23,481	1 4	10,697	9 5	5,972	8 4	79,457	1 10	91,527	3 7
	Carried over Original works ...	34,338	10 5	20,206	12 6	41	10 0	.....		20,248	6 6

Annual Statement of Expenditure of the P. W. Dept for the year 1897-98.

Item No.	HEAD OF SERVICE.	Expenditure for 1896-97	Expenditure for 1897-98.											
			Annual repairs.			Petty repairs.			Earth-quake repairs.			Total.		
		Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	
	Brought forward Original works ...	84,288	10	5	20,306	12	6	41	10	0	.....	20,248	6
	Brought forward Repairs ...	23,481	1	4	10,097	9	5	5,973	8	4	79,457	1	18	
	Repairs.													
	<i>Civil Buildings (Continued)</i>													
87	Temples in "Town" ...	241	13	3	38	3	3	10	12	9	1,328	9	9	
88	Temples in "Mofussil" ...	726	7	9	675	5	9	101	14	6	.....	777	4
89	Tent godown	12	9	3	.....			179	7	9	.....	179	7
90	"Woodlands"	8,514	12	0	2,647	4	6	47	10	6	1,729	5	6	
91	Removing Debris of Palace ...	.....			.....			.....			5,260	1	5
92	Do. other State buildings ...	.....			.....			.....			5,184	10	6
93	Superintendent of Stables quarter ...	.....			.....			.....			593	11	9
94	Jenkins' School now used as Dewan's office ...	.....			.....			24	0	0	3,635	2	8
95	Settlement office ... ..	.....			.....			103	8	0	.....	103	8
96	Latrine to the Police Line ...	.....			.....			10	14	0	.....	10	14
97	Police and Military Hospital ...	.....			.....			77	3	9	.....	77	3
98	Accommodation of School, College /Palace stable)	.....			.....			72	15	6	.....	72	15
99	Carriage shed ... ..	.....			.....			84	14	3	.....	84	14
100	Nazarukhanna ... ..	.....			.....			135	6	9	.....	135	6
101	Unforeseen	972	5	3	.....			.....			.....
	Total Repairs Civil Building ...	28,949	0	10	13,458	6	11	6,771	4	1	97,183	11	0	
	<i>Military.</i>													
102	Barracks, stables and magazine ...	273	10	6	166	0	9	.....			.....	166	0
	Total Military	273	10	6	166	0	9	.....			.....	166	0
103	<i>Miscellaneous Public Improvements.</i>													
	Tanks, wells &c., in Mofussil ...	26	12	6	78	2	6	6	12	0	.....	84	14
	Total Mis. P. Improvement... ..	26	12	6	78	2	6	6	12	0	.....	84	14
	<i>Tools and Plant.</i>													
104	Purchase and manufacture of Tools and plants &c. ...	638	5	0	1,104	4	0	.....			.....	1,104	4
105	Purchase of Bullocks ... ..	.....			1,423	0	0	.....			.....	1,423	0
106	Repairing Tools	1,069	14	9	850	4	0	.....			.....	850	10
	Total Tools and Plant	1,706	3	9	3,377	8	0	.....			.....	3,377	8
	Carried over Tools and Plant	1,706	3	9	3,377	8	0	.....			.....	3,377	8
	Repairs	29,349	7	10	13,702	10	2	6,778	0	1	97,183	11	9	
	Original Works	34,333	10	5	30,306	12	6	41	10	0	.....	30,348	6

Annual Statement of expenditure of the P. W. Dept. for the 1897-98.

Item No.	HEAD OF SERVICE	Expenditure for 1894-97	Expenditure for 1897-98.			
			Annual repairs.	Petty repairs.	Earth-quake repairs.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
	Brought forward ...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto Original works ...	34,238 10 5	20,206 12 6	41 10 0	...	20,248 6 6
	Ditto Repairs ...	29,249 7 10	13,702 10 2	6,778 0 1	97,133 11 0	1,17,614 5 3
	Ditto Tools and plant ...	1,708 3 9	3,377 8 0	...	...	3,377 8 0
106	Maintenance of State Carts ...	6,324 6 2	6,613 3 9	...	...	6,613 3 9
	<i>Establishment.—P. W. Department.</i>					
108	Engineer ...	4,150 0 0	4,200 0 0	...	...	4,200 0 0
109	Upper Subordinates ...	3,852 12 6	3,482 5 3	...	...	3,482 5 3
110	Lower ditto ...	1,484 0 0	1,452 6 3	...	...	1,452 6 3
111	Petty ...	2,321 0 3	2,312 15 9	...	...	2,312 15 9
112	Office ...	4,515 0 0	4,360 1 0	...	...	4,360 1 0
113	Toraa Agency ...	426 2 0	436 0 0	...	...	436 0 0
114	Travelling allowances ...	2,574 13 3	2,534 0 3	...	...	2,534 0 3
115	Contingencies ...	1,210 8 6	1,598 2 6	...	...	1,598 2 6
	Total Public Works Establishment.....	19,834 4 6	20,283 15 0	...	...	20,283 15 0
	<i>Dak Bungalow Establishment.</i>					
116	Salaries ...	1,170 6 6	1,224 6 3	...	1,224 6 3	
117	Contingencies ...	182 12 9	428 4 9	...	428 4 9	
	Total Dak Bungalow Establishment ...	1,353 3 3	1,652 11 0	...	1,652 11 0	
	<i>Conservancy Establishment.</i>					
118	Salary ...	348 0 0	348 0 0	...	348 0 0	
119	Contingencies ...	174 15 3	185 1 9	...	185 1 9	
	Total conservancy Establishment ...	522 15 3	533 1 9	...	533 1 9	
120	Forest establishment ...	240 0 0	234 0 0	...	234 0 0	
	<i>Lansdowne Hall Establishment.</i>					
121	Salary ...	151 5 3	180 0 0	...	180 0 0	
122	Contingencies ...	808 10 0	918 5 9	...	918 5 9	
	Total ...	959 15 3	1,098 5 9	...	1,098 5 9	
	<i>Artisans' school.</i>					
123	Artisan's school ...	988 6 0	942 0 0	...	942 0 0	
	Total Establishment ...	23,393 12 3	...	...	24,744 1 6	
124	Profit and loss ...	...	223 4 9	...	223 4 9	
	Total final Heads ...	33,414 8 6	...	...	1,72,620 13 2	

Miscellaneous Receipts of the Public Works Department for 1897-98.

Item No.	HEAD SERVICE.	1896-97.		1897-98.	
		AMOUNT.	TOTAL	AMOUNT.	TOTAL
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1	Misc. Receipts of P. W. Department ...	2,547 0 0		11,678 2 11	
2	Sale proceeds of misc. timbers sleepers &c.	1,816 14 0		9,870 6 1	
3	Income of State carts ...	7,057 6 9		6,957 7 3	
	Total Rupees ...		11,421 4 9		28,506 0 8

KEDAR NATH MAZUMDAR,

Superintendent of Works, P. W. Dept.

Abstract of Annual Expenditure of the Communication Improvement Fund for the year 1897-98.

	EXPENDITURE FOR 1896-97.		EXPENDITURE FOR 1897-98.	
	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.
Original Communication I. Fund ...	18,601 11 10		22,881 2 0	
Repairs Communication I. Fund ...	26,635 4 7		27,645 0 7	
Total Communication I. Fund ...	45,237 0 5		50,526 2 7	.....

KEDAR NATH MAZUMDAR,

Superintendent of Works, P. W. Dept.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

COOCH BEHAR STATE.

Annual Statement of expenditure of the Communication Improvement Fund for the year 1897-98.

Item No.	PARTICULARS.	Expenditure for 1896-97.	EXPENDITURE FOR 1897-98.		
			Annual.	Earth-quake.	Total.
	Original Works.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
	<i>Communication Improvement Fund.</i>				
1	Approach roads to Chofrahat and Gitalda Railway Station.	118 8 9			
2	Bridges and Culverts on cross road from Patgram to Bhutan.	798 10 11			
3	Bridge over Mora Torsa on Lowkut road ...	165 11 6	8,776 0 9	.....	8,776 0 9
4	Bridge on Peckhann road ...	.....	1,837 13 9	.....	1,837 13 9
5	Diversion road at Akrahat ...	833 7 8	972 13 0	.....	972 13 0
6	Ditto of the Rungpur road and conversion of the Mansai bridge into a cart bridge	1,111 2 6	5,600 9 3	.....	5,600 9 3
7	Diversion road at Mathabhanga ...	342 4 0			
8	Feeder road from Emigration road to Patlakhowa	31 4 3			
9	Ditto Cooch Behar to Sitalkhuchi ...	3,947 14 9			
10	Janaki Tewary road ...	855 2 6	604 7 9	.....	604 7 9
11	Katamary to Manabary road ...	.....	2,957 0 6	.....	2,957 0 6
12	Metalling portion of the Emigration road to west of Cooch Behar.	1,987 3 9	362 6 9	.....	362 6 9
13	Pucca Bridges on Emigration road west of Cooch Behar, 2nd Project	7,144 3 3	1,701 11 6	.....	1,701 11 6
14	Pucca bridge on Mathabhanga and Sitalkhuchi road	.....	68 2 9	.....	68 2 9
15	Batherhanga road ...	250 0 0			
16	Ranihat road ...	1,066 2 0			
	Total Original Works ...	18,601 11 10	22,881 2 0	.....	22,881 2 0
	Repairs.				
17	Buxa road ...	675 10 9	589 13 4	423 1 6	1,012 14 10
18	Bouti road ...	154 7 3	154 9 0	.....	154 9 0
19	Balarampur Feeder road ...	1,927 5 6	845 14 0	101 9 3	947 7 3
20	Cross road from Dihata to Mekligunj	1,302 13 0	2,658 12 3	996 0 0	8,654 12 3
21	Ditto Mathabhanga to Shitalkhuchi ...	758 1 9	667 5 6	.....	667 5 6
22	Ditto Patgram to Bhootan ...	845 0 1	594 14 9	.....	594 14 9
23	Changrabanda Feeder road ...	881 1 9	274 3 6	.....	274 3 6
24	Chowdhurhat ditto ...	84 4 6	48 5 9	215 0 0	263 5 9
25	Dewangunge ditto ...	94 6 3	131 1 6	.....	131 1 6
26	Emigration road west of Cooch Behar	3,682 17 11	4,037 6 0	2,386 1 0	6,443 7 0
27	Emigration road east of Cooch Behar	235 6 0	236 2 0	.....	236 2 0
28	Feeder road from Emigration road to Pathlakhowa	635 10 3	164 14 6	519 9 9	884 8 3
29	Ditto from Dewanghat to Balarampur	544 1 6	161 11 6	.....	161 11 6
30	Ditto from Cooch Behar to Shitalkhuchi	835 13 0	297 2 6	682 2 2	929 4 8
31	Falakata road ...	212 2 6	129 10 8	247 4 3	376 14 11
32	Inspection Bungalow ...	498 10 3	367 4 0	.....	367 4 0
33	Janaki Tewary road ...	543 2 9	354 12 3	403 0 9	737 13 0
34	Kashinbary Feeder road ...	151 15 8	268 11 3	241 2 0	599 18 3
35	Kakina road with branches ...	1,241 13 3	1,068 12 4	201 11 0	1,270 7 4
36	Lowkut road ...	3,635 13 0	2,756 7 5	.....	2,756 7 5
37	Manikgunge Feeder road ...	167 3 2	166 4 9	60 15 6	227 4 3
38	Purbabhang ditto ...	189 11 3	59 3 6	254 0 6	318 3 0
39	Roads and Bridges at Nikutty ...	522 13 3	619 14 11	.....	619 14 11
40	Roads in Saluaba ...	805 15 0	636 1 6	245 6 9	881 8 3
41	Rungpore road ...	1,293 6 9	1,121 0 3	41 15 9	1,168 0 0
42	Village paths ...	2,776 15 0	1,785 7 3	291 9 3	2,077 0 6
43	Damages done to the roads by flood	1,818 7 9			
44	Katamary to Manabary road ...	.....	168 10 0	.....	168 10 0
	Total Repairs ...	26,635 4 7	20,384 7 2	7,280 9 5	27,645 0 7
	Total original & Repairs ...	45,237 0 5	.....	.....	50,526 2 7

KEDAR NATH MAZUMDAR,

Superintendent of Works, P. W. Dip.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CHAKLAJAT ESTATE.

. Abstract of Annual expenditure of the Chaklajat for the year 1897-98.

HEAD OF SERVICE.	EXPENDITURE FOR 1896-97.		EXPENDITURE FOR 1897-98.	
	Amount.	Total.	Amount.	Total.
	Rs. A. A.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
ORIGINAL WORKS.				
Civil Buildings ...	3,943 12 6		1,630 6 3	
Total ...		3,943 12 6		1,630 6 3
REPAIRS.				
Civil Buildings ...	3,778 5 3		6,105 2 6	
Communications ...	106 10 3		56 7 0	
Miscellaneous ...	6 9 0		0 0 0	
Total ...		3,891 8 6		6,161 9 6
Establishment ...			685 10 0	
Establishments including contingencies	818 8 0			
Total ...		818 8 0		685 10 0
GRAND TOTAL ...		3,658 13 3		3,477 9 9

KEDAR NATH MAJUMDAR,
Supdt. of Works, P. W. Dept.
Cooch Behar.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CHAKLAJAT ESTATE.

Annual Statement of expenditure for Chaklajat for the year 1897-98.

Item No.	PARTICULARS.	Amount.			Total.	REMARKS.
	Original Works.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As. P.
	<i>Civil Buildings.</i>					
1	Corrugated Iron shed for Rajnagore Kutchery.	349	0	6		
2	Corrugated Iron shed for Mulkadah Kutchery.	349	3	9		
3	Well at Bairagir hat ...	53	2	9		
4	Pucca well at Panga ...	110	0	0		
5	Rauigunj pipe well at Ghoraghat ...	110	0	0		
6	Barkandazee shed at Debigunj ...	658	15	3		
	Total Civil Buildings ...				1,630	6 8
	Repairs.					
	<i>Civil Buildings.</i>					
7	Amlahs Quarters at Jalpaiguroe ...					
8	Boda Toke Kutcheries (10 Tokes) ...	835	3	9		
9	Dispensary and Native Doctor's quarters at Devigunj, Boda and Titaliya.	56	4	9		
11	Manager's residence at Devigunj ...	118	9	0		
12	Manager's Office Bungalow at Devigunj.	103	11	3		
13	Managers Bungalow at Jalpaiguroe...	162	5	3		
14	Patgram Toke Cutcheries	132	1	0		
15	Peelkhanah and Mahoots' quarters	51	9	8		
16	Repairs to Halls	523	12	0		
17	Do. Panga Tokasil Kutchery	298	15	3		
18	Rungpore Toke Cutcheries	486	13	6		
19	School buildings in the Estate	51	4	0		
20	Staging bungalow at Devigunj and Patgram.	125	2	0		
21	Temples at Boda, Patgram and Purbabhog.	617	13	6		
	<i>Earth-quake repairs to buildings in the Estates :-</i>					
22	Boda Building	399	7	6		
23	Boda Thakurbari	104	6	0		
24	Boda Well	67	12	0		
25	Record house	476	2	0		
26	Rungpur kutchery	1,039	9	0		
27	Purbabhog kutchery	9	11	6		
28	Panga Dispensary	3	15	0		
		2,100	15	0		
29	Nripendra Narayan Hall at Jalpaigury	440	11	0		
	Total Repairs Civil buildings ...				6,105	2 6
	<i>Communications.</i>					
30	Station roads	56	7	0		
	Total communications ...				56	7 0
	<i>Establishment.</i>					
31	Sub-overseer	300	0	0		
32	Peon	72	0	0		
33	Travelling & contingencies	217	10	0		
34	Chowkidar and sweeper for Patgram Dak Bungalow.	96	0	0		
	Total establishment ...				685	10 0
	Grand Total ...				8,477	9 9
	<i>Miscellaneous Receipts for 1897-98.</i>					
35	Miscellaneous Receipts	64	1	0		
	Total miscellaneous ...				64	1 0

KEDAR NATH MAZUMDAR,

Supdt. of Works, P. W. Department.

MALCUTCHERY No. 1.—Statement of Demands, Collections and Balances of Land Revenue (Mal) for the year 1897-98.

Name of Mohal.	DEMANDS.		COLLECTIONS.		REMISSIONS.		BALANCES.		PAID IN EXCESS.	
	Present year.	Previous year.	Present year.	Previous year.	Present year.	Previous year.	Present year.	Previous year.	Present year.	Previous year.
Malikah parsonage...	7,393 6 2	7,393 6 2	7,393 6 2	7,393 6 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	11 0 2	.....
Malikah parsonage...	11,27,006 15 6	1,29,006 5 7	13,10,129 5 7	1,18,433 5 1	1,784 15 2	43,453 11 0	45,243 10 2	1,00,293 6 2	4,312 8 2	0 4 8
TOTAL	11,27,006 15 6	1,29,006 5 7	13,10,129 5 7	1,18,433 5 1	1,784 15 2	43,453 11 0	45,243 10 2	1,00,293 6 2	4,312 8 2	0 4 8
Syrat Mohals	72,472 9 8	13,148 11 4	91,890 14 0	60,840 9 6	618 0 0	3,977 14 4	4,322 11 4	11,119 0 6	4,363 7 2	202 8 4
GRAND TOTAL	12,00,871 6 4	2,11,121 14 11	14,10,033 7 3	9,97,433 1 1	2,399 15 2	47,436 9 4	49,566 8 6	1,11,372 6 9	4,715 14 8	0 4 8

EXPLANATIONS.

(a).—The current demand for the year is Rs. 12,00,871-6-4 against Rs. 11,96,981-4-0 of the previous year. The gross increase amounts to Rs. 14,754-7-11 and the decrease to Rs. 6,716-3-7. The net increase thus amounts to Rs. 7,989-4-4. Details are given below:—

INCREASE.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Increase due to re-settlement of the State	1,927	13	7
Decrease due to revision of settlement papers	88	2	8
Decrease attributable to re-settlement of joms relinquished in previous years	444	9	7
Decrease due to re-settlement of Patwari lands and of joms resumed (made Khajhi) in previous years	4,792	11	3
Increase obtained by the inclusion of certain lands (Sib Prasad Mustaf) in the State which had hitherto been held as appertaining to Rungpore	13	11	9
Increase obtained by re-settlement of Syrat Mohals	7,497	7	1
Total	14,756	7	11

(b).—Total balance shown as due at the close of previous year ... 2,06,029 13 6
While the arrears brought forward in this statement amounts to ... 2,11,212 14 11
There is thus a net increase of Rs. ... 5,184 1 5

(c).—The total collections include excess payments which form no part of the demand. These payments should therefore be deducted in order to arrive at the balance correctly.

(d).—Fide Council Nos. 446 and 445, dated June 7th, 1898.

(e).—Details of the balance due out of the total demand, are given in the Report.

* Deduction of Rs. 180 due to excess explained in note appended to table in para 7 of report.

DECREASE.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Decrease due to revision of settlement papers	258	11	3
Decrease on account of joms relinquished from the beginning of the previous year	801	11	8
Decrease due chiefly to cancellation of leases and partly to reduction of Jumsa for various reasons, as explained in the statements of reductions and remissions	1,864	1	0
Decrease due to settlement of Syrat Mohals	4,064	11	11
TOTAL	6,706	8	7

CALICA DOSS DUTT,
Deewan of Cooch Behar.

Statement of Demands, Collections, Remissions and Balances of Excise Revenue for the year 1897-98.

EXCISEABLE ARTICLES.	DEMANDS.			COLLECTIONS.			REMISSIONS.			BALANCES.		
	Current.	Arrear.	Total.	Current.	Arrear.	Total.	Current.	Arrear.	Total.	Current.	Arrear.	Total.
Tax of Out-still shops of Country Spirit	Rs. A. P. 26,563 10 9	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P. 26,563 10 9	Rs. A. P. 26,563 10 9	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P. 26,563 10 9	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
License-fees of Imported-liquor shops ...	288 0 0	.....	288 0 0	288 0 0	.....	288 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Duty on Ganja ...	18,876 12 3	.....	18,876 12 3	18,876 12 3	.....	18,876 12 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
License-fees of Ganja shops ...	12,079 14 6	470 4 6	12,550 3 0	12,079 14 6	282 14 0	12,362 12 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	187 6 6	187 6 6
Ditto of Opium do. ...	2,646 6 9	24 3 0	2,670 9 9	2,646 6 9	.....	2,646 6 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	24 3 0	24 3 0
Duty on Opium ...	13,234 0 0	.....	13,234 0 0	13,234 0 0	.....	13,234 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Miscellaneous collections ...	347 0 0	.....	347 0 0	347 0 0	.....	347 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Duty on Imported Spirits ...	1,817 4 0	.....	1,817 4 0	1,817 4 0	.....	1,817 4 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL ...	75,853 0 3	494 7 6	76,347 7 9	75,853 0 3	282 14 0	76,135 14 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	211 9 6	211 9 6

CALICA DOSS DUFT,

Deewan of Cooch Behar.

Statement shewing the S and P Revenue credited to account during the year ending the 31st March 1898.

From whom received.	JUDICIAL STAMPS.		DOCUMENTARY STAMPS.		STAMPS FOR FEES.		DUTY ON THE STAMPED PAPER.		Gross total stamps.	Amount allowed to the Govt.	Total net stamps.	Carriage allowed to the Govt.	Percent allowed to the Govt.	Net total carriage paper.	Net total of stamps.	Gross total of stamps.
	With commission.	Without commission.	With commission.	Without commission.	With commission.	Without commission.	With commission.	Without commission.								
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Bahadur Office	53,775 0 0	3,463 8 0	6,260 0 0	114 0 0	11,175 0 0	1,785 0 0	522 13 4	54 15 0	57,046 4 4	1,554 12 0	53,501 9 4	561 12 0	22 12 9	541 18 3	53,503 1 7	57,111 9 4
Mahabhoj	54,328 0 0	87 0 0	6,328 0 0	.....	10,228 0 0	730 12 0	.....	.....	47,056 4 0	1,409 1 0	43,647 3 0	108 0 0	6 12 0	101 4 0	43,748 7 0	45,147 4 0
Dahab ..	13,000 0 0	100 0 0	6,328 0 0	.....	9,500 0 0	573 0 0	.....	.....	24,609 0 0	1,025 0 0	33,574 0 0	187 8 0	11 11 6	176 12 6	33,749 13 6	34,796 8 0
Mahabhoj	13,100 0 0	86 0 0	6,100 0 0	.....	6,125 0 0	843 10 0	.....	.....	26,732 10 0	800 3 9	25,932 6 3	87 8 0	4 3 6	83 4 6	26,000 10 9	26,800 2 0
Todungul	8,600 0 0	86 0 0	3,400 0 0	.....	3,250 0 0	173 0 0	.....	.....	14,370 0 0	474 4 0	14,138 12 0	87 8 0	5 7 6	83 0 6	14,217 13 6	14,887 0 0
Total ..	1,05,790 0 0	3,818 8 0	29,600 8 0	- 114 0 0	39,975 0 0	2,918 6 0	832 13 4	54 15 0	1,50,014 2 4	5,263 4 9	1,74,750 18 7	816 4 0	60 35 3	764 4 9	1,75,515 9 1	1,80,809 0 4

CALICA DOSS DUTT, *Deputy of Cooch Behar.*

CIVIL STATEMENT NO. I.

(A.)

List of Judicial and Revenue Divisions of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1897-98.

Name of Division.	Names of Police Stations in each.	Area in square miles.	Population.
Sudder Sub-Division	Kotwali Station	274	1,29,266
Toofangunj "	Foolbari Station	233	73,071
Dinhata " "	Dinhata Station	261	1,46,788
Mathabhanga "	Mathabhanga Station	345	1,43,124
Mekligunj "	Mekligunj Station... ..	105	51,061
	Huldiary Station... ..	89	34,744

(B.)

Return shewing the number of Civil and Revenue Courts of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1897-98.

CIVIL.		REVENUE.		TOTAL.
Appellate.	Original.	Appellate.	Original.	
1	14	1	10	26

(C.)

Return shewing receipts and charges of Civil and Revenue Courts in the Cooch Behar State for 1897-98.

COURTS.	RECEIPTS.						CHARGES.					
	Stamps.	Process fees.	Fines and forfeitures.	Ameen's fees.	Other receipts.	TOTAL.	Salary of Judicial officers.	Establishment.	Process.	Contingencies.	Ameen's salary.	Other charges.
Civil Courts ..	44,022	11,346	450	699	2540	59,868	15,861	10,845	7116	1466	870	2,964
Revenue Courts	26,293	8,844	84	.....	1210	46,581	1,130	1,473	431	173	.....	684
Small C. Courts	1,800	612	.....	.....	145	2,559	.....	390	129	61	.....	170
TOTAL ..	62,196	20,806	534	699	3,895	1,08,988	19,861	12,497	7,676	1690	870	3890

Receipts Rs. 1,08,988 0 0
 Charges " 44,907 0 0
 Balance " 62,961 0 0

PRIYA NATH DUTT,

Offg. Civil and Sessions Judge.

CIVIL STATEMENT No. 2.

Statement shewing the number and description of suits instituted in the Civil and Revenue Courts of the Cooch Behar State, during the year 1897-98.

COURTS.	SUITS OF THE SMALL CLASSE COURT CLASSE.										OTHER CIVIL SUITS.										EAST SUITS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
	On written obligation.		On an writ-ten.		On account stated.		Money lent and re-ceived and con-tributed.		Goods sold.		Breach of contract not in-cluded above.		Rent not falling under the rent law.		Movable property or real estate.		Damages.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
	Above Rs. 1,000.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Above Rs. 1,000.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Above Rs. 1,000.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Above Rs. 1,000.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Above Rs. 1,000.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Above Rs. 1,000.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Above Rs. 1,000.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Above Rs. 1,000.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Above Rs. 1,000.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	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Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	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Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.

PRIYA NATH DUTT,
Offg. Civil & Sessions Judge.

CIVIL STATEMENT No. 3.

Statement showing the result of the trial of original Suits in the Civil and Revenue Courts of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1897-98.

CIVIL COURTS.	Pending from the last year.	Instituted during the year.	Modified by transfer.	Total for disposal.	Transferred to other Courts.	Plaint rejected or returned after registration or returned.	Dismissed for default.	Withdrawn.	Compromised.	Deceased on confession.	Deceased ex parte.	Dismissed ex parte.	Referred to arbitration.	CONTENDED.		Over six months.	Over twelve months.	Pending.	Total disposed of.	Judgments for whole or part.	Judgments for whole or part.	Judgments for disposal.	Over six months.	Over twelve months.	Completed.	Uncompleted.	AVERAGE DURATION OF SUITS.
														Judgments for whole or part.	Judgments for disposal.												
Civil Judge.	14	20	20	34	...	...	2	...	9	...	4	...	...	8	...	...	...	15	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assistant Civil Judge.	109	467	63	578	...	...	56	...	30	106	173	...	...	84	49	...	...	76	502	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib Ahlikar, Toofangunj	26	242	63	421	217	...	16	...	3	21	32	...	...	23	14	...	...	104	213	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib-Naib Ahlikar, ditto.	46	4	216	366	63	...	1	...	1	38	63	...	...	28	13	...	...	15	135	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib-Ahlikar, Dinabata...	25	625	8	533	408	...	16	...	10	14	97	...	...	48	6	...	...	49	405	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib-Naib Ahlikar, ditto	46	15	408	479	10	...	64	...	1	18	27	...	...	37	6	...	...	64	289	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib Ahlikar, Mathabhang	95	1034	...	1129	...	...	34	...	46	76	383	...	...	60	20	...	...	76	715	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib-Naib Ahlikar, ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	137	...	40	76	383	...	...	41	30	...	...	44	367	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib Ahlikar, Mekligunj	33	376	...	411	...	...	39	...	24	74	156	...	...	41	30	...	...	44	367	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	404	2785	687	3876	688	4	417	9	189	407	1313	1	...	343	132	2745	445	29	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
REVENUE COURTS.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Civil Judge.	...	2	130	132	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assistant Civil Judge.	...	1453	6	1459	130	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Secy. to the B. C. Bench : Sudhler Rent Suit Dept.	139	4	1445	1584	1445	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib Ahlikar, Toofangunj	47	3	189	239	189	...	13	...	1	16	21	...	...	197	29	1296	164	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib-Naib Ahlikar, ditto.	47	3	189	239	189	...	13	...	1	16	21	...	...	197	29	1296	164	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib-Ahlikar, Dinabata...	19	1397	8	1363	1135	...	16	...	10	49	53	...	...	29	10	199	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib-Naib Ahlikar, ditto	147	3	1135	1355	8	...	351	...	15	48	57	...	...	62	12	211	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib Ahlikar, Mathabhang	109	1246	...	1355	...	...	10	...	18	111	110	...	...	146	33	1103	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib-Naib Ahlikar, ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	88	...	133	259	354	...	...	77	22	595	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib Ahlikar, Mekligunj	79	985	...	1064	...	...	125	...	200	207	358	...	...	81	22	595	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	553	6396	2917	8806	4947	2	965	3	392	1364	1760	11	...	657	124	5278	530	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SMALL CAUSE COURTS UP TO Rs. 20 AND Rs. 50.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assistant Civil Judge.	9	689	...	688	...	...	144	...	22	107	285	...	...	69	22	661	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naib Ahlikar, Toofangunj	8	158	...	166	...	...	59	...	7	17	45	...	...	17	9	155	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Dinabata	12	290	...	212	...	...	37	...	7	23	90	...	...	30	2	219	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Mathabhang	12	270	...	252	...	...	73	...	14	31	129	...	...	14	6	272	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Mekligunj	1	46	...	47	...	...	14	...	2	7	21	...	...	...	1	45	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	42	1393	...	1435	...	...	362	5	53	165	570	4	...	130	41	1352	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL	999	9483	3634	14116	9335	8	1744	17	634	1956	3573	16	...	1130	297	9375	1106(4)	43	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(a) Instead of 1106, there remained actually 1107 pending at the end of the year. One suit shown as transferred from the file of the Sub-Naib Ahlikar of Dinabata to the file of the Assistant Civil Judge was not sent by that Court during the last quarter of the year although the order for transfer was passed on the 28th February last.

PRIYA NATH DUTT,
Offg. Civil and Sessions Judge.

CIVIL STATEMENT No. 4.

Statement shewing the value of suits disposed of in the Civil and Revenue Courts of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1897-98.

VALUE OF SUITS.	CIVIL SUITS.							RENT SUITS.							SMALL CAUSE COURT CLASS SUITS UP TO Rs. 20 AND Rs. 50.					Grand Total.		
	Civil Judge.	Assistant Civil Judge.	Toulangun.	Dinabata.	Mathabhangra.	Mekligun.	TOTAL.	Civil Judge.	Assistant Civil Judge.	Secy. to the State Council in charge S. H. S. Dept.	Dinabata.	Mathabhangra.	Mekligun.	Toulangun.	TOTAL.	Asst. Civil Judge.	Dinabata.	Mathabhangra.	Toulangun.		TOTAL.	
Not exceeding Rs. 5	...	1	1	1	1	...	4	...	6	44	55	36	28	3	172	25	32	18	5	23	93	269
Ditto "	...	11	5	15	32	9	72	...	27	414	436	239	209	51	1,876	309	197	254	40	182	932	2,380
Ditto "	...	35	174	266	441	139	1,055	...	59	470	472	436	865	125	11,927	327	...	...	...	...	337	3,319
Ditto "	...	246	89	169	312	124	940	...	28	263	235	351	243	77	1,197	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,137
Ditto "	...	177	42	89	214	92	614	...	18	105	115	203	148	10	597	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,311
Ditto "	...	32	2	...	4	3	41	...	1	...	1	...	4	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Ditto "	...	19	...	...	...	...	19	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Ditto "
Ditto "
Ditto "
Ditto "
Exceeding " 1,00,000
Total	19	502	313	540	1,004	367	2,745	2	139	1,296	1,314	1,265	995	267	5,378	631	919	373	43	137	6,397	

PRIYA. NATH DEB.
Off. Civil and Sessions

CIVIL STATEMENT No. 5.

Statement shewing the execution of decrees of Civil Courts of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1897-98.

CIVIL COURTS.	APPLICATIONS TO EXECUTE DECREES.				APPLICATIONS DISPOSED OF.			PENDING.			NATURE AND NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH REMEDIES PROVIDED BY LAW.						APPLICANTS' NAMES.		
	Pending at the beginning of year.	Filed.	Received by trans.	Total.	Decree wholly or partially satisfied.	Struck off.	Transferred.	TOTAL.	More than six months.	More than twelve months.	Total pending.	Against the person.		Rescinds property.		Attaches.		Sells.	Total.
												Arrest.	Imprisonment.	Arrest.	Sells.				
Civil Judge, Cooch Behar	19	43	.....	62	17	29	...	45	1	3	16	19	7	1	29	14	16	39	1
Assistant Civil Judge, ditto	97	642	.....	639	213	310	...	523	7	2	116	21	138	8	150	48	193	144	1
Naib Ahlikar, Toofangunj	38	156	27	176	29	147	...	176	.....	.....	45	2	2	2	14	8	18	3	2
Sub-Naib Ahlikar, ditto	13	76	.....	89	18	44	27	89	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....
Naib Ahlikar, Dinabata	63	214	.....	277	87	145	...	232	1	.....	45	24	101	8	221	36	161	52	.....
Sub-Naib Ahlikar, ditto	23	180	.....	203	50	123	...	173	3	.....	148	10	214	23	441	111	238	131	.....
Naib Ahlikar, Mathabanga	98	691	.....	789	158	148	...	306	.....	.....	148	9	55	9	101	54	96	79	.....
Sub-Naib Ahlikar, ditto	.....	.....	.....	.....	117	218	...	335	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Naib Ahlikar, Mekligunj	29	217	.....	246	97	105	...	202	.....	.....	44	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	386	2,119	27	2,531	786	1,259	27	2,082	12	6	449	85	518	52	1,010	247	708	448	.....
REVENUE COURTS.	3	4	.....	7	.....	5	.....	5	.....	.....	2	.....	2	.....	1	.....	1	1	.....
Civil Judge, Cooch Behar	7	49	.....	56	.....	42	1	48	.....	.....	8	11	9	.....	18	7	1	1	.....
Assistant Civil Judge, ditto	69	549	1	619	61	472	...	533	7	1	86	166	139	6	297	55	136	86	.....
Secy. to the S. C. in charge S. H. S. Dept.	27	117	.....	144	36	81	...	117	.....	.....	27	148	48	4	137	13	87	47	.....
Naib Ahlikar, Dinabata	46	253	.....	299	79	167	...	246	.....	.....	53	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sub-Naib Ahlikar, ditto	88	510	.....	598	192	39	...	203	4	.....	101	207	24	3	340	81	138	78	.....
Naib Ahlikar, Mathabanga	.....	.....	.....	.....	102	102	...	294	.....	.....	.....	108	15	4	124	18	107	76	.....
Sub-Naib Ahlikar, ditto	24	266	.....	300	102	173	...	275	.....	.....	95	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Naib Ahlikar, Mekligunj	20	47	26	83	12	67	1	73	.....	.....	20	9	.....	1	8	5	1	1	.....
Ditto Toofangunj	14	50	1	65	12	27	26	65	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sub-Naib Ahlikar, ditto	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	308	1,845	28	2,181	598	1,233	28	1,889	11	1	322	652	238	18	934	165	478	301	.....
SMALL CAUSE COURTS UP TO Rs. 50 & 20.	23	438	.....	461	49	367	...	415	.....	.....	45	.....	10	5	54	43	.....	.....	.....
Assistant Civil Judge, Cooch Behar	10	169	.....	169	16	128	...	144	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Naib Ahlikar, Dinabata	8	104	.....	112	28	71	...	105	.....	.....	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Mathabanga	5	16	.....	21	7	13	...	20	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Mekligunj	6	58	.....	64	12	43	...	55	.....	.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Toofangunj	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	52	775	.....	827	112	628	...	740	.....	.....	87	.....	132	15	198	63	.....	.....	.....
Grand total	745	4,739	55	5,389	1,496	3,130	55	4,681	23	7	858	737	888	85	2,143	464	1,188	797	.....

PRITHA NATH DUTTA,

Offg. Civil and Sessions Judge.

CIVIL STATEMENT No. 6

Statement showing the substance and disposal of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature in the Civil and Revenue Courts of the Grand Duchy of Saxony for the year 1907-08.

COURTS	CASES DURING THE YEAR		DISPOSAL OF				FURTHER		APPEALS		REMARKS
	By petition	By summons or otherwise	TOTAL	Transferred	Dismissed	Adjudicated	Adjudicated	Adjudicated	Dismissed	Dismissed	
Civil Court	13	6	19	1	18	18	18	18	1	18	18
	13	6	19	1	18	18	18	18	1	18	18
	13	6	19	1	18	18	18	18	1	18	18
	13	6	19	1	18	18	18	18	1	18	18
	13	6	19	1	18	18	18	18	1	18	18
Revenue Court	13	6	19	1	18	18	18	18	1	18	18
	13	6	19	1	18	18	18	18	1	18	18
	13	6	19	1	18	18	18	18	1	18	18
	13	6	19	1	18	18	18	18	1	18	18
	13	6	19	1	18	18	18	18	1	18	18
Grand Total											
Grand Total											

Statement showing the work of the Civil Appellate Courts of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1937-38.

PIPER HARRIS DOWD,
City, Civil and Domestic Judge.

THE

City Civil and Superior Judge.

Statement showing the nature of miscellaneous suits instituted and disposed of in the Civil and Revenue Courts of the County of Baker State for the year 1897-98.

PRATA NATH DUTTA,
Offg. Civil and Sessions Judge.

Non-Industrial	Industrial	Total
103	100	203
103	100	203

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